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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
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**Festival this week?**

Let your voice be heard!  
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to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### New Super

Barbara Alberti has been named the new superintendent at the American Memorial Park on Saipan.

LOCAL...Page 13



### Call to Arms

Calling on Americans to volunteer, President Barack Obama signs a \$5.7 billion national service bill.

NATION...Page 15



### Shirley's Trip

Students of Ladera International School of Saipan visit the kitchen of Shirley's Coffee Shop.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Coast Guard suspends search for missing family. **PAGE 3**  
McPhetres blasts WASC's Beno's 'improper' behavior. **PAGE 6**

## Rampant student suspensions at PSS

### Board official notes 'abuse' in meting out suspensions

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

**F**rom about 400 cases five years ago, the number of public school students in middle and high school who have been suspended has risen to 3,000 and counting during the current school year.

The figure is based on the Public School System's School Reform Committee suspension data culled from eight public and middle schools on island, covering school years 2003 through 2008 and partial records of 2009.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero,



Deleon Guerrero

chair of the board's School Reform Committee, expressed concern yesterday on the impact the "alarming" rate of suspensions would have in the number of graduating students each year.

Just by reviewing the data,

See **RAMPANT** on Page 4

## 'ALIEN STUDENTS SLIP THROUGH IMMIGRATION LOOPHOLES'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Many foreign students who were allowed to enroll in private schools on island are taking advantage of "loopholes" in the existing immigration system and are ending up as public school students, availing of free education from the government, according to the representative of private schools in the Board of Education, Scott Norman.

During a regular meeting yesterday, Norman said private schools are losing foreign students due to "transfers," majority of whom go to public schools.

Based on regulations pro-

See **ALIEN** on Page 4



### DAREDEVIL STUNT

Dan Westphal performs a gravity defying stunt at the new \$241,000 Saipan Skate Park in Garapan yesterday. See story on Page 8.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## Govt hands over some records to Sablan

By **KRISTI EATON**  
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REPORTER

After seven months and a lawsuit, Rep. Tina Sablan finally received some documents relating to the CNMI government's federalization lawsuit, although the lawmaker says the disclosed records may not be in compliance with the court order.

At 5:11pm on Tuesday, the



Sablan

deadline for disclosure, Sablan received the contract of Howard Willens, the governor's special legal counsel. Willens, as part of the Jenner & Block law firm, is representing the CNMI in its lawsuit against the federal government, which seeks to halt the extension of U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI.

Sablan received the following

documents:

■ Willens/Wilsie Co.'s contract change order No. 2, dated Sept. 19, 2008;

■ Willens' independent contractor agreement with the Office of the Governor, effective Jan. 1, 2007, to Sept. 30, 2007, with attachments; and

■ Willens' independent contractor agreement with the Office of the Governor, effective Jan. 19, 2006, to Dec. 31, 2006, with attachments. (See sidebar

See **GOVT** on Page 4

## Willens earned \$168K in '06-'07



Willens

By **KRISTI EATON**  
[Kristi\\_eaton@saipantribune.com](mailto:Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Although he offers his legal services for free, Howard Willens, the governor's special legal counsel, received close to \$96,000 in 2006 and \$72,000 in 2007 in compensation and reimbursement from the Commonwealth government, according to his contracts.

A change order obtained shows the revised contract amount for this fiscal year is \$84,000.

Under the contract, Willens, who is representing the CNMI in the federalization lawsuit against the U.S. government, receives

See **WILLENS** on Page 4



# Local

## 'No public input on three-year \$15M highway plan'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works did not receive a single comment from Saipan residents on a three-year highway plan involving at least \$15.154 million that includes the multi-million Cross Island or Back Road improvement and the Chalan Kalabera development.

An additional \$4.5 million is also expected to go toward phase II of the Cross Island road improvement project from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The public comment on the CNMI Territorial Transporta-

tion Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2009-2011 began on March 24 and wrapped up on April 21.

Joseph M. Inos Jr., director of DPW's Technical Services Division, said yesterday they did not receive any comment from Saipan residents. He said they have yet to know whether comments were gathered from Rota and Tinian residents.

"Just like in previous comment periods, we did not receive comments for the plan," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office.

Inos said it is disappointing that not a single comment was received during the allotted public comment period. "People usually

react long after the comment period and they asked us how come they're not given an opportunity to comment," he added.

Projects listed on the three-year plan are funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration through the Federal Aid Highway Program.

The annual earmarked federal funding for FYs 2009 to 2011 is about \$4.5 million. For FY 2009, however, there's an additional \$1.754 million additional discretionary fund.

FY 2009 projects include the design for Cross Island road improvement Phase II A worth \$750,000.

"The design is being finalized," said Inos.

Phases II B and III of the Cross Island road improvement project are also earmarked \$2.620 million and \$60,000, respectively.

The Route 36 Windward/Chalan Kalabera Development was also earmarked \$1.2 million in FY 2009.

Other FY 2009 projects include:

- Route 10/100 emergency repairs on Rota with two separate funding—\$500,000 and \$554,000;
- Highway planning, technology transfer and training activities, \$20,000;

■ Program administration and construction engineering, \$350,000; and

■ The right of way manual, \$100,000.

For FY 2010, the projects with earmarked funds include highway planning, technology transfer and training activities, \$50,000; and program administration and construction engineering, \$350,000.

The projects will also include:

- Route 100 road improvements and environmental assessment and preliminary engineering, \$200,000;
- Route 10 hazard elimination and overlay, \$150,000;
- Route 200 hazard and elimination overlay, \$75,000;
- Route 21 hazard elimination and overlay, \$75,000;
- Cross Island road improvement phase III, \$3.550 million; and

■ Beach Road/Tun Segundo Street intersection traffic signal system, \$50,000.

Projects for FY 2011 include:

- Highway planning, technology transfer and training activities, \$50,000;
- Program administration and construction engineering, \$350,000;
- Route 100 road improvements and environmental assessment and preliminary engineering, \$250,000;
- Route 10 hazard elimination and overlay, \$150,000;
- Route 200 hazard and elimination overlay, \$500,000;
- Route 21 hazard elimination and overlay, \$500,000;
- Tun Herman Pan Road and drainage improvements phase II, \$1.150 million; and
- Beach Road/Tun Segundo Street intersection traffic signal system, \$200,000.

## Closing arguments today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The jurors in the ongoing jury trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos could begin deliberations this afternoon, even as the closing arguments by the prosecution and defense lawyers are expected to drag on for several hours.

The courtroom in the U.S. District Court for the NMI in Garapan is expected to be jam-packed starting at 8:30am, the beginning of the closing arguments.

Closing arguments occurs after the presentation of evidence or after the prosecution and the defense lawyers rest their cases.

During closing arguments, the counsels give concluding statements reiterating important arguments for the jury.

The trial of Villagomez and the Santos enters its 18th day today. The trial started with 18 jurors, including six alternate jurors. As of Tuesday, only 15 jurors were left, including three alternate jurors. The court would normally excuse the alternate jurors shortly before the start of closing arguments.

The prosecution generally opens the argument. After the defense lawyers' arguments, the prosecution is usually then permitted a rebuttal.

In this case, when assistant

U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley is done with his closing arguments, attorneys Victorino Torres, Ramon Quichocho, and David J. Lujan, counsel for James Santos, Joaquina Santos, and Villagomez respectively, will follow. It is not clear who among the defense lawyers will start presenting their arguments.

After the defense lawyers' arguments, O'Malley will have another chance for rebuttal.

When the closing arguments are completed, the court will give the jury instructions. The jurors will then start deliberating the case.

The U.S. government rested its case on Tuesday after presenting 25 witnesses. The last was former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony C. Guerrero.

The defense did not call any witness.

Villagomez and the Santos are facing charges of conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the United States, wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The defendants are accused of bilking the CNMI government out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless purchases for CUC of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme.

## 2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality raised the red flag yesterday on beaches fronting the Tanapag Hall and Central Repair Shop on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of enterococci that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These fecal indicator bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on Saipan's coast each week.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)



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## Coast Guard suspends search for missing family

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam suspended last night the search and rescue operation for a family of four who has been reported missing since Saturday night while traveling from Guam to Rota aboard a catamaran.

The Coast Guard said the ac-

tive search is suspended "pending further developments."

The U.S. Coast Guard declined to answer *Saipan Tribune's* question whether the distress call—purportedly from a certain Ray Quichocho—was a hoax.

Lt. Elizabeth Buendia, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam command center chief, only stated that they are grateful to all media

partners who made repeated attempts to obtain more information about the Quichocho family.

"This case highlights the importance of filing an accurate and comprehensive float plan with a trusted friend or family member," Buendia said.

It has been confirmed that Ray Quichocho is not the Saipan lawyer Ramon "Ray"

Quichocho. The lawyer and his wife have a business on Rota.

Guam media also reported that no relatives have surfaced to report that Ray Quichocho is missing.

The U.S. Coast Guard started the search and rescue operation after they received last Saturday a call from the CNMI Emergency Management Office.

Apparently, the EMO got a cellular phone call from Ray

Quichocho, who stated that he and his family were traveling from Guam to Rota on their catamaran and that they were encountering big waves about 10 miles from Two Lovers Point.

Quichocho reported that one of the boat's two engines had failed.

Quichocho ended the call before EMO could gather any additional information.

Buendia said yesterday that since the report came in, Sector

Guam has been coordinating the search efforts, which included rescue assets from the Naval Helicopter Combat Squadron-25, a Coast Guard C-130 from Honolulu, the Coast Guard cutter *Washington* and Coast Guard small boats from Station Apra Harbor.

"In total, the rescue units covered an area over 5,500 square nautical miles, an area 23 times the size of Guam," Buendia said.

## Lack of funds scuttles Guam trip of 2 youth senators

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The lack of funds may prevent two youth senators from taking part in an annual youth conference in Guam.

*Saipan Tribune* learned this yesterday after being told that

the 11<sup>th</sup> CNMI Youth Congress has yet to receive a response to their request for funds from the Legislature.

The youth senators passed a resolution on April 18 asking the Legislature to provide funding for the members of the Youth Congress to attend

the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth for Youth Conference slated on April 25-27. *Saipan Tribune* learned that some \$2,000 is being asked for the trip and accommodation of two youth senators.

A letter from Youth Congress Speaker Alana May Leon Guer-

neider told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hofschneider, who is also a special assistant to the Department of Land and Natural Resources secretary, said redoing and redefining building facades would also make Beach Road a lively and attractive scenic drive.

"But this project is still a short distance away from now," he added.

He said government agencies can partner with private entities to enhance Beach Road. "We need public-private partnership to get things going. The Parks and Recreation, for example, can put out regulations on parking zones at parks," Hofschneider added.

(Haidee V. Eugenio)

## Beach Road facelift to be pushed

Saipan Zoning Board chair Henry S. Hofschneider said yesterday he will be reviving a proposal to enhance the appearance of Beach Road from the Microl intersection in San Jose to the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

While the stretch of Beach Road from the Microl intersection to Garapan has a usable pathway that gives a scenic view of the Saipan lagoon, the area south of it on both sides of the road has unsafe walkways, lacks designated parking areas, has unsightly abandoned buildings and unattractive signage.

But first, Hofschneider said he

will bring back to the board a proposal to hire a consultant who will help "put together a workable, realistic plan" for this particular stretch of Beach Road.

The same consultant who helped draft the plan for the Garapan revitalization project may be tapped for the Beach Road project, he said, adding that the plan development and the holding of stakeholders meeting will cost no more than \$15,000.

"I believe this stretch of road needs a major facelift, starting with simple, inexpensive landscaping, ingress and egress, and parking controls, etc.," Hofsch-

## Parent Development Mini Workshops for Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month

**April 28 & 29, 2009**  
(select one day)

**8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Tanapag Youth Center (TYC)**

### TOPICS

- ✦ What Parents Need to Know About Child Abuse and Neglect
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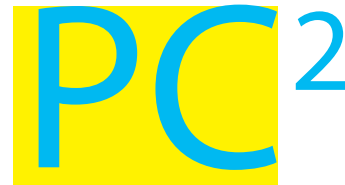
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For more information, please call The Palms on PauPau Beach at 322-3311





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Much-needed computers, monitors, keyboards and associated peripherals were donated to GPSS during a presentation at Marcial Sablan Elementary School in Agat, Tuesday, April 21. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas Self Help Seabees provided the necessary support to transfer more than 60 computers and associated peripherals from NAVFAC Marianas to the GPSS warehouse in Piti. Photographed in the front row left to right are Utilitiesman 2nd Class (SW) Jaypee DeGuzman; Utilitiesman 2nd Class Wuanette Montaute; Agnes Camacho, Marcial Sablan Elementary School principal; Kathy Reyes, Tamuning Elementary School principal; Sam Roundtree, NAVFAC Marianas business manager; Dr. Nerissa Bretania-Shafer, GPSS superintendent; back row left to right: Utilitiesman 1st Class (SW) Jason Huskey; Steelworker 2nd Class Brian Castonguay. Not photographed: Storekeeper 2nd Class Ricky Crews.

## Guam PSS gets computers from NAVFAC Marianas

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—More than 60 computers were donated to the Guam Public School System during a presentation held Tuesday, April 21, at Marcial Sablan Elementary School in Agat. The computers will be put to use at Marcial Sablan Elementary School and Tamuning Elementary School.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas executed the transfer.

“Computers are so vital to the education of our children, and we are very pleased to be in a position where we have excess computers and corresponding peripherals that will be put to great use by many of our young students,” said Sam Roundtree, NAVFAC Marianas business manager.

Marcial Sablan Elementary School is comprised of more than 400 students, and Tamuning Elementary School consists of approximately 600 students. GPSS Superintendent Dr. Nerissa Bretania-Shafer and school principals were on hand to accept the donation. Bretania-Shafer thanked NAVFAC Marianas.

“Now almost every classroom will have the benefit of a computer,” Bretania-Shafer said. “These will really help our teachers to enhance their instructional time.”

NAVFAC Marianas’ mission is to strengthen combat readiness through military construction, installation management, and facility operations support. *(USN)*

## WILLENS

From Page 1

\$12,000 per quarter but has agreed to provide his professional services for free.

The CNMI government reimburses Willens for airfare between Saipan and Washington D.C. four times a year. The airfare is for coach rate and is not to exceed \$3,000 per trip. While on Saipan, Willens is reimbursed for the use of a rental car not to exceed \$1,000 per month.

The special counsel also receives a per diem of \$100 per day for 60 days each quarter. This money is to cover the costs of lodging, meals and miscellaneous expenses while in the Commonwealth.

As special legal counsel, Willens provides his services to the Office of the Governor from time to time, according to the contract. He also has the title of assistant attorney general in order to serve as CNMI counsel in cases relating to public lands.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor’s Office, said Willens is

an independent contractor with a professional services contract, not a government employee.

“The contract speaks for itself, and does not mention ‘salary,’” the press secretary said in an e-mail.

In his February 2006 justification memorandum to the director of Procurement and Supply, Gov. Benigno Fitial noted that Willens is an active member of the Commonwealth Bar Association and a graduate of Yale

Law School. In addition, he served as counsel to the Marianas Political Status Commission from 1972 to 1976; counsel to the First Constitutional Convention in 1976; and the Third Constitutional Convention in 1995-1996.

“He is qualified to perform the scope of work set forth in the independent contractor agreement. The proposed agreement is a cost effective means of providing the governor access to a uniquely qualified lawyer who has vol-

unteered to work without any monetary or other compensation for his professional services,” Fitial wrote in the memorandum.

Willens’ contracts were released to Rep. Tina Sablan after she sued Fitial and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos to obtain documents relating to the federalization lawsuit. The CNMI is suing the U.S. government to halt the extension of U.S. immigration laws to the Northern Mariana Islands.

## RAMPANT

From Page 1

“abuses” by principals and administrators were quite evident, he said.

Deleon Guerrero cited data recorded in school year 2007-2008 where a total of 766 students were suspended due to betel nut chewing and tobacco possession in schools.

“While overall student enrollment in all junior and high schools has remained constant, the number of suspensions has tripled in the past couple of years,” Deleon Guerrero said, adding that the number of suspensions varies dramatically between schools and even within individual schools from year to year.

### Suspension data

According to the data, PSS posted 430 total suspensions in 2003. This went up to 523 the next school year. Suspensions reached 619 in school year 2005-2006.

In school year 2006-2007, the Curriculum and Instruction Office recorded a total of 1,362 suspensions. The number went up more than a hundred-fold to 2,923 the following school year, 2007-2008.

With the 2008-2009 school year not due until August, the number of suspensions have already reached the 3,000 mark, according to the School Reform Committee report.

The highest number of suspension was noted in the special education programs in the junior and high schools.

Data showed that in 2006-2007 alone, Marianas High School issued the highest number of suspensions with 955. Saipan Southern High School was a far second with 164, followed by Kagman High School (160), Hopwood Jr. High School (44), Rota High School (23), Chacha Oceanview (8), Rota Jr. High School (6), and Tinian High School (2).

In 2007-2008, the highest suspension rate was recorded by Saipan

Southern with 1,784 cases, followed by MHS (676), Kagman High (227), Hopwood (105), Tinian High (60), Chacha Oceanview (33), Rota High School (22), and Rota Jr. High School (16).

### Alternative

Deleon Guerrero emphasized that based on board regulation 2606, “the discipline regulations for suspension and expulsion are intended to supplement standard day-to-day disciplinary actions taken at the school level.”

He said the policy mandates that principals should exhaust the standard day-to-day corrective disciplinary measures and hold parent conferences before suspending or expelling a student, unless the conduct is serious enough to warrant immediate suspension or expulsion.

“[But] based on the data compiled and input gathered from a broad spectrum of PSS stakeholders...it is the belief that BOE regulation 2606 is not being followed as many students are being suspended without principals or their designees fully exhausting standard day-to-day corrective disciplinary measures,” Deleon Guerrero said.

He added that these measures include in-house detention, parent conferences, counseling sessions, and campus cleanup.

### Diverted

Deleon Guerrero also believes that non-compliance with the regulation could be the result of a lack of adequate counseling, or the lack of training in discipline behavior modification by counselors.

“It appears that many counselors are diverted from counseling work by additional duties and responsibilities such as teaching, administrative paper work, and lunch supervision,” he added.

Deleon Guerrero believes that non-compliance with the regulation is an administrative matter that does not require a policy change from the board.

## GOVT

From Page 1

for related story)

In October, Sablan, citing the Open Government Act, asked Gov. Benigno Fitial to produce copies of all contracts related to the lawsuit, including any contracts between the CNMI government and Jenner & Block, as well as any private attorneys or law firms involved in the suit.

She also asked for documents on payments made on the contracts and the funding sources. She called on the governor to identify government agencies that have had their funds reprogrammed to fund the lawsuit, and the amounts of money taken from them.

Acting Attorney General Gregory Baka declined to produce the documents, saying the OGA prohibits the release of certain litigation-related information that the government’s opponent in a lawsuit could not otherwise get in court. Sablan asked for the same documents from Finance Secretary

Eloy Inos and again was denied.

In March, the lawmaker sued Fitial, Inos and Baka in an effort to compel the administration to release the information. Baka was dismissed from the lawsuit. Last week, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered the defendants to produce some of the documents.

At a hearing earlier this month, assistant attorney general Braddock Huesman, counsel for Fitial and Inos, objected to giving Sablan copies of three documents: the letter engaging the services of lawyers; billing documents and statements sent to the CNMI for the 903 litigation (federalization lawsuit); and payments made by the CNMI to attorneys for the 903 litigation.

Sablan said she believes the records pertaining to Willen’s contract are incomplete. Change Order No. 1, for example, is missing, she said in a statement.

“In the second place, I had also expected to receive copies of any fee or retainer agreements related to the 903 litigation,” she said in a statement. “It is my understanding that the fee or re-

tainer agreement is distinct from the engagement letter. Further, it is well-established that fee or retainer agreements are not considered privileged information. The court did not specifically authorize defendants to withhold the fee or retainer agreement.”

Also, the defendants failed to answer whether or not private entities were involved, she said.

Sablan also questions earlier statements made by Baka after receiving the documents.

Baka earlier revealed the sole public source of funding was from the Governor’s Operating Account. Yet the account to fund Willen’s contract is different. Moreover, Willens provides his legal services free of charge yet receives payment as an independent contract and other benefits.

Huesman is expected to submit the privilege log to the court shortly and Sablan will receive a copy, she said.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor’s Office, said he could not comment on questions related to the funding of the lawsuit. He referred some of the questions to the lawyers.

## ALIEN

From Page 1

However, Norman said, a significant number of former private school enrollees are now at PSS through their sponsors and guardians.

He said private schools have been suffering a decline in enrollment since last school year, with many parents opting to move their kids to public schools due to the bad economy and to avail of the free education.

“Edu-tourism is a good concept... but it’s not happening as what we wanted it to be because we have concerns on the implementation of the promulgated rules,” he said.

Norman cited an instance where one of his foreign students failed to re-enroll at the Calvary Christian School, only to find out later that the student had transferred to Marianas High School.

MHS principal Karen Borja was present in yesterday’s meeting.

Norman emphasized that “documentations or records” pertaining to his former student cannot be provided to PSS schools; only the Immigration Division could ask for them.

Edu-tourism, he said, will not be successful without the “parental supervision or involvement” of the students’ foreign parents.

He noted that many foreign students are being accepted at PSS, mostly through sponsorships and guardians.

Norman believes that the existing immigration rules governing foreign students are in conflict with the current statute. Since the rules were implemented, there have been “no supervision” of the rules, he said.

“It was never supervised, we’ve never been visited or inspected onsite if we do match up on our application,” Norman told the board, asking the body to look at his concerns.



# Flame Tree Arts Festival

April 23 (Thursday) 5:00pm to 9:00pm • April 24 (Friday) 5:00pm to 9:00pm

April 25 (Saturday) 10:00am to 6:00pm



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# McPhetres blasts WASC's Beno's 'improper' behavior

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REPORTER

Former Northern Marianas College regent Agnes McPhetres blasted Western Association of Schools and Colleges chair Dr. Barbara Beno for allegedly overstepping her role as a member of the accrediting commission.

McPhetres took issue with Beno's "judgmental" comments relating to management issues at the college.

In a four-page letter addressed to Dr. Lurelean B. Gaines, chair of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, McPhetres described Beno's comments as "unbecoming." The former regent cited several instances of Beno's alleged lack of tact in dealing with the NMC board.

"In her letters to the NMC president, Dr. Beno has overstepped her role as representa-

tive of the commission in her dealings with member institution by being judgmental and acting in a manner unbecoming of a spokesperson for such a distinguished body. It is my opinion that as the key representative of the commission, Dr. Beno should convey at all times impartiality, objectivity and tactfulness when she deals with member institutions," McPhetres told the ACCJC chair.

On at least two occasions, she said, the WASC official drew conclusions about interactions between the NMC president and board members without bothering to confirm whether what NMC president Carmen Fernandez reported was factual.

"My concern is that decisions about NMC are being made on faulty evidence and that at some point in the future, when the actual situation at NMC is brought

out in the open, irreparable harm will have come to NMC and it is the commission that is going to be greatly embarrassed," she added.

McPhetres resigned from the board early last month.

She insists that her letter to ACCJC is not that of a disgruntled former NMC board member but as a concerned private citizen "who cares deeply about the quality of post-secondary education in the CNMI."

## Specific letters, instances

Saipan Tribune learned that in a letter dated March 15, 2008, the then chair of the Board of Regents, Joey San Nicolas, was forced to respond to Beno's accusation about the board's interference and micromanagement of the institution

During Beno's visit to Saipan on April 21-22 last year, the board expected to meet with her to address accusations regarding the board's "interference" in the management of NMC and to get a better understanding of the body's meaning of the terms "involve-ment" and "participation."

Although the former board members did briefly meet with Beno, McPhetres said the issue was never clarified.

On the same visit, the board wanted to accompany the visiting officials when they met with the governor and the Legislature. They, however, were told by Fernandez that Beno preferred not to have any member of the board in those meetings.

McPhetres found this "out-

rageous" and said that Beno should have been more sensitive to local political realities and laws governing the college.

In Beno's letter to BOR chair Charles V. Cepeda on Feb. 26, 2009, the official scolded the board for its "misbehavior" in attempting to contact the Legislature about college matters, which undermines the ability of the college president in leading NMC effectively.

Beno's letter, a copy of which was obtained by Saipan Tribune, indicated that "those governing members who cannot adhere to the standards...are better suited to forms of public service other than service on the governing board of an accredited college."

McPhetres cited another incident in early February when Fernandez and Cepeda opted to call Beno first, instead of resolving the "management issues" raised by the faculty against Fernandez. As a result, Beno

sent the board a letter chastising them for their inability to function effectively despite ample training.

"Let me assure the commission that since I became a board member in March 2008, the board has acted in a most professional manner, has been flexible with regard to their personal schedules, and has manifested exemplary commitment to the college—even to the point of giving up their honorarium," McPhetres told ACCJC.

She inquired if the commission has a formal policy or procedure on how its president communicates with member institutions or if he or she is allowed free rein without checks and balances.

"The manner in which Dr. Beno has dealt with an individual board member has become a serious distraction that prevents the concerned parties from addressing the heart of the problem at NMC," McPhetres.



McPhetres

## 3 men nabbed for defunct MGM factory's burglary

Police arrested over the weekend three of the four persons who allegedly burglarized and stole items several from two warehouses of the defunct MGM Garment Manufacturing in Chalan Piao.

Sharp Ngirutoi, Franco Edboy, and Donny Swei were served with an arrest warrant for burglary and theft. The fourth defendant, Jake Ito, was not arrested yet.

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Tuesday imposed a \$25,000 cash bail each for the temporary release of the defendants.

Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero said a surveillance camera at Triple Star Recycling Center led to the identification of the four suspects.

Investigation showed that last April 5 the suspects broke into the warehouses of the MGM factory and stole an air compressor, three exhaust fans and other metal items.

The suspects loaded the items into a pickup truck and sold them, except the air compressor, to Triple Star Recycling Center.

With the help of a "cooperating defendant" police traced the air compressor to a residence in Koblerville.

A certain Kevin of MGM told police that \$30,000 worth of equipment were taken from the warehouses. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## DPS to re-route traffic for arts festival and Tagaman

The Department of Public Safety will re-route traffic on Saturday to ensure the safety of participants and motorists during the Flame Tree Arts Festival Parade and the Tagaman Triathlon.

DPS will close and divert traffic along Beach Road between 6am and 10am Saturday.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival and Tagaman Triathlon will take place simultaneously during these hours.

DPS spokesman Eric David asked the public for assistance and understanding.

David said affected areas will be from the Susupe Mobil Gas Station to the San Jose Mobil Gas Station.

David said the road between the Garapan Fire Substation and the Navy Hill/Commonwealth Health Center Traffic Light will be closed between 6am and 12pm.

"All motorists are asked to take extra precautionary measures when driving on Beach Road Garapan to Beach Road San Jose as well as from Beach Road Chalan Kanoa to Koblerville as these routes will be used by the participants of the Tagaman Triathlon," he said.

David said that from Middle Road Puerto Rico to areas in Marpi will be utilized by the Tagaman athletes as well. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING  
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



NOTICE AS TO BOND CLAIMS  
2006-2007 CASES

April 16, 2009, first notice  
April 23, 2009, second notice

Each of the cases listed below has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office. In each case, a final action has been taken by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been adjudicated or dismissed, and final notices have been published. Awards in some of these cases may be covered by labor bonds.

COMPLAINANTS WHOSE ADMINISTRATIVE AWARDS HAVE NOT BEEN PAID:

Any complainant who was awarded money damages in a case listed below and has not been paid should come to the Complaint Intake Section, Department of Labor, and fill out a declaration affirming that payment has not been made. Please bring a copy of the administrative order in your case and your entry permit card. A complainant who has not been paid has until April 30, 2009 to report to the Complaint Intake Section.

Alternatively, any complainant who has already filed a declaration under oath with the federal ombudsman's office may either supply a copy of that declaration or authorize the ombudsman's office to supply a copy together with a copy of the administrative award to the Complaint Intake Section.

Case number	Date of award	Complainant Family name	Given name	Respondent
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Abadilla	Ariel F.	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
LC#04-580	3/16/07	Africa	Nenita	Commonwealth GMT MFG Inc.
LC#07-238	12/3/07	Ahmed	Sohel	Kinship Enterprises Inc.,
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Alam	Kazi Masud	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Alam	Md. Shah	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#03-138	5/22/07	Alam	Md. Shah	Mirage Saipan Co. Ltd.
LC#97-325	10/18/06	Ali Khan	Md. Leakat	Edward A. Ayuyu dba Ayuyu Security Agency
CAC#01-093-06	6/17/06	Almazol	Danilo	Sablan Construction Co., Ltd.
CAC#01-093-06	6/17/06	Almazol	Danilo	Sablan Construction Co., Ltd.
LC#07-236	12/3/07	Ambrocio	Villamin Baing	Kinship Enterprises Inc.,
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Aque	Diosdado A.	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
LC#98-370	3/16/07	Arlay	Ailene	Madecat Corporation
CAC#99-447-12	11/6/07	Balasto	Melquides C.	Misamis Construction Saipan Ltd.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Balili	Lo Manuel	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Barbo	Wilfredo M.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Barol	Peter P.	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
LC#07-123	10/1/07	Benemerito	Ortega Enrico	Seishin Farm Saipan, Inc.
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Bernido	Marlow	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#02-098-12	4/10/07	Bhuiyan,	Md. Nazir Ahmed	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-070	9/6/07	Cabalza	Lucille Sison	J.D.H Corporation dba MGM VI
CAC#06-144-11	2/27/07	Cabaya	Loana A.	Pantaleon B. Valenzuela dba Valenzuela Janitorial Services,
LC#03-257	5/14/07	Cai	Zhen	American Langente Corporation
LC#07-223	12/13/07	Cao	Ting Wei	Saigon Enterprises Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Casabuna	Amorsolo De Leon	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#06-144-11	2/27/07	Casuga	Juanita M.	Pantaleon B. Valenzuela dba Valenzuela Janitorial Services
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Cervances	Jose A.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Bixia	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Jian Hua	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#03-34	3/5/07	Chen	Li Yi	BQF Services Corp.
LC#01-180	3/16/07	Chen	Miao Ci	Excel Corporation, Sang Ho Sohn, President and its Officers
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Wen Sheng	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Chen	Xin Zhao	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Ya Mei	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Chen	Yanqin	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Yao Mez	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Dabu	Juanito	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Dan	De Zhen	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#04-547	3/9/07	Datchanee	Loilong Wijitpan	Commonwealth GMT MFG Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Del Prado	Aurelio	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Dimatera	Eduardo E.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Ding	Peng Chun	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#04-547	3/9/07	Dioneda D.	Terেসita	Commonwealth GMT MFG Inc.
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Drilon	Ariel Atayde	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Elayda	Ramon	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#06-144-11	2/27/07	Eloso	Rolando Dlc	Pantaleon B. Valenzuela dba Valenzuela Janitorial Services
CAC#07-05-0011	6/28/08	Enriquez	Ricardo Pescante	Erensia Inc. dba Naked Stallion
LC#04-521	3/8/07	Felipe	Josephine	Joo Ang Apparel Inc.
LC#03-462	3/1/07	Gaffar	Abdul	Sako Corporation
LC#04-219	3/16/07	Gautam	Kamala	Emilia T. Rios
CAC#06-105-08	10/18/06	Genobaten	Edgar	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Gong	Zhon Pin	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#04-298	9/20/07	Guo	Zhen Hua	Mirage Saipn Co. Ltd.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Guzman	Andres Teel	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Habibur		Net Corporation
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Haque	Easha	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#98-079	6/12/07	Hossain	Anwar	Antonio Reyes dba BPS
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Anwar	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Atm Mozaffour	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Babul	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#99-447-12	10/24/07	Hossain	Nur	Misamis Construction Saipan Ltd.
CAC#00-194-09	10/24/07	Hossain	Nur	Net Corporation
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Shakhawat	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Huang	Bing Hong	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Huang	Jin Kun	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Ibanez	Nilo D.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Inao	Welly Kilat	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#04-617	3/16/07	Isidro	Romel C.	Angel's International School of Dance
LC#04-617	3/16/07	Isidro	Ryan C.	Angel's International School of Dance
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Jacela	Jonathan P.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Jacob	Jesus B.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Jaman	Kamruzz	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-085	8/7/07	Ji	Ching Xiang	Jin Yang Corp., et al
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Ji	Ching Xiang	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#07-088	8/8/07	Jing	Zhi Qiang	Jin Yang Corp., et al
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Kiseo	Salvador C.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#05-222	7/7/06	Laborce	Angelo Miclat	S-Won Incorporated
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Lacson	Bernabe R.	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Lacson	Bornabe R.	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Langit	Fidel Martin	Island Security Services Inc

Case number	Date of award	Complainant Family name	Given name	Respondent
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Li	Aing Feng	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Li	Denghong	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#06-224	8/17/07	Li	Fengchun	Jisoo Corporation
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Li	Qing Feng	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#00-294	5/10/07	Lin	Fu Xing	American Kai Hua Corporation
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Liu	Aimin	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
LC#04-412	3/9/07	Liu	Shun Li	Marianas Fashions Inc.
LC#07-059	8/21/07	Long	Xiao Hong	K&K Corporation
CAC#04-019-03	6/6/07	Lu	Fang Hua	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
LC#07-222	12/13/07	Luo	De Wen	Saigon Enterprises Inc.
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Luo	De Zhen	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Macatantan	Armando S.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Magabo	Monina Arconado	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Maglaya	Raffie O.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#01-175	2/23/07	Mallick	Niranjan	Saipan HWA Rang Corporation
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Mamun		Island Security Services Inc.
LC#04-771	5/10/07	Marquez	Melecia P.	Ned, Arriola S.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Masum	Md.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Mejia	Domingo	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-098-12	4/10/07	Mia	Mohammad Shakul	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Miah	Dulal	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#06-270	12/19/06	Mohammed	Ali Asraf	Misamis Construction Saipan Ltd.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Mondal	Patit Paban	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#03-065	6/15/07	Nagpacan	Edwin G.	Bien Seiko, Inc. and Isagani Benozza
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Narayan	Sarker	Island Security Services Inc
CAC#04-029-06	8/3/06	Nath	Talijdkar Hari	Tasan Corporation, dba Ryu Lee Yeon Hee (President), Ryu Jae Young (Secretary)
LC#03-162	3/16/07	Obra	Renita J.	Pete Onni dba Kapitbhay Restaurant
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Ortiz	Rosanna M.	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#96-560	4/12/06	Pagdato	Marticio G.	Filipina A. Sablan
LC#01-047	2/23/07	Pagdilao	Clarita	Mary Mini Mart Inc.
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Pan	Ping Fang	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Panalagao	Bernardito Jr.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Patricio	Joey P.	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CV#07-0017	12/17/07	Qian	Xiao Li	Grace International, Inc.
CAC#05-052-04	11/15/07	Qing	Xian Xu	New Saipan Development, Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Quirino Jr.	M. Gallar	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Rahman	Md. Habibur	Island Security Services Inc.ero
LC#03-044	3/5/07	Rahman	Md. Moklesur	Kinship Enterprises Inc.,
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Raper	George Billena	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Raquepo	Roberto	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	4/10/07	Rashid	Hamidur	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-145	12/11/07	Raut	Raja Ram	Cube Corporation, Jeon Chang Kook and Na Young Mi
LC#07-121	6/19/07	Rojas	Reynaldo D.	Cook N Sam Corporation
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Rondares	Wilson A.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#04-797	3/14/07	Ruiang	Huang	Sako Corporation
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Sabugo	Alejandro	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-115	8/6/07	Saludes	Meriam Enriquez	Juan L. Evangelista dba Naked Stallion
LC#00-325	5/14/07	Samelo	Felizardo Naval	Manny T. Vilaga
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Santiago	Arsenia Duenas	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Santos	Enrico P.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Sawnga	Arnel Homelde	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Sorrosa	Dante B.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Sun	Ya Fang	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Supati	Froilan Sr.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#06-329	3/26/07	Taguibao	Emily Navarro	Cepeda, Sharlene
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Taiting	Fong Yan Yang	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Tiamzow	Cecilia S.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Vergara	Grace Baterna	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Wahed	Md. Abdul	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-246	11/30/07	Wang	Hong Yu	J.S. Corporation, Rui Kangping and Kwon Soon Young
LC#07-086	8/8/07	Wang	Hong Yu	Jin Yang Corp., et al
LC#04-437	3/16/07	Wang	Wen Zhen	American Sai Green Corporation
LC#07-082	8/8/07	Wang	Xiao Ping	Jin Yang Corp., et al
CAC#04-003-01	10/25/07	Wang	Xiu Ling	Zhong Ming Corp.
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Wu	Ming Yong	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Yang	Bang Xiao	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
LC#04-804	3/9/07	Yong	Qun Cao	Sako Corporation
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Zhan	Fei	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
LC#98-402	3/16/07	Zhang	Zhan Shan	American Kai Hua Corporation
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Zhen	Huan Xian	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Zhen	Jian Wei	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Zhou	Jun Qzng	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#05-048-04	9/24/07	Zhou	Ren	Far Ocean Corporation
LC#07-072	8/7/07	Zhu	Gui Qin	Jin Yang Corp., et al
CAC#07-065-04	7/20/07	Zhu	Yinchuan	Grace International, Inc.
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Ziang	Jing	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Zoleta	Romulo G.	Island Security Services Inc.



# NMI's first \$241K skate park unveiled

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Children and adults now have a central place for board skating with yesterday's unveiling of the \$241,000 Saipan Skate Park in Garapan, which may also soon have a wi-fi for free Internet connection.

This is the first skate park in the CNMI, which was made possible by collaboration among parents, skate boarders, the government and private businesses.

Juanito Tiamzon, 15, said he used to go around the island to find the best spots for board skating. "I go anywhere just to skate. Now we have one right here, and this is better than okay," he told *Saipan Tribune* during the unveiling ceremony.

Tiamzon, a ninth grader at Saipan Southern High School, said he started skateboarding only last year at the urging of his friends.

The skate park is located beside the Garapan Round House and Gold's Gym.

Another skater, 16-year-old Leo Duenas Jr., said he and his friends usually skate park at the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"We still go there on school days because it's near our school. But on weekends, we come here," he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the project was accomplished with a strong private-public sector partnership, and with strong community involvement.

He said the \$241,000 project is unique in that it received funding from multiple sources.

About \$135,000 came from federal funds administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., and the rest came from



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, third from right, leads the ribbon cutting for the \$241,000 Saipan Skate Park in Garapan yesterday. Also in photo are Lands and Natural Resources secretary Dr. Ignacio dela Cruz, Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz, Rotary Club of Saipan president Ben Babauta, and Northern Marianas Housing Corp. corporate director Joshua T. Sasamoto, and teen skate boarders.

the local government and private contributions.

"I am very proud of this successful group effort, and I look forward to seeing more community cooperation as we maintain this facility for our local community," he added.

Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz said the skate park is "a dream come true for deserving youth." He, however, reminded the skate park users to clean up after using the facility to help maintain the park.

Ben Babauta, president of the Rotary Club of Saipan, which has been instrumental in putting together the skate park project, called on people's attention to the other features of the park, such as the solar lighting. He said the park will also soon have a wireless network connection and benches.

Laurie Peterka, who led the Rotary Club of Saipan's involvement in the project and a consultant for the ISK8 Society,

could not hold back her tears when she addressed the crowd during the unveiling ceremony.

She also talked about the dedication and hard work of young people who attended the meetings for two years to keep the project going.

"These kids showed up in every meeting. They're cooperative and persistent," she said. Construction of the skate park was completed in late September, while the solar lighting was installed in November.

The unveiling was held only yesterday because of issues with ownership of the park, according to Peterka. She said the government owns the park, but its maintenance is a partnership between ISK8 Society and DLNR's Division of Parks and Recreation.

NMHC executive director Joshua T. Sasamoto, in his remarks, said the park had been vandalized but the ISK8 Society members helped remove the graffiti.

Peterka said ISK8 has done two graffiti cleanups at the park.

ISK8 founding president Scott McClarin, in his message read by IT&E's Kathryn Barry during the ceremony, said having the skate park "is just about the coolest thing Saipan could ever hope for people under 30, and for some of us over that age."

"What ISK8 has done is to begin what hopefully becomes a long-term change in many of Saipan's skaters and youth to believe in themselves in the midst of difficulty, who will hopefully grow up seeing possibilities rather than limitations placed on them by adults," said McClarin.

During the ceremony, the names of those who made the skate park project possible were repeated by speakers. They included NMHC, Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz, the CNMI Youth Foundation, Seafix Inc., EFC Engineers & Architects, the Saipan Rotary Club, and the Island Skate (ISK8) Society, DLNR and individual donors.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 23, 1999

### Teno fires Atalig

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has fired Coastal Resources Management Office Administrator Felipe Q. Atalig, who has been accused of sexual harassment, in yet another move to send a strong message to government officials that he will not tolerate such misconduct in public office. Atalig is the first senior official in the Commonwealth to be dismissed under Tenorio's two-year administration. The dismissal of Atalig, who has been under administrative suspension since last month after allegations of sexual harassment was brought against him by his staff, came amid renewed efforts of Tenorio's administration to keep government workplace safe from such behavior.

### OSHA: No sweatshops on Saipan

There are no sweatshops on Saipan, according to OSHA officials and administrators. Region IV OSHA administrators offered to SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce, this assessment at a closing conference for United International Corporation, and after concluding a large portion of the first baseline study of the CNMI Garment industry since 1996. In meetings with OSHA Region IV Regional Administrator Frank Strasheim on March 16, and in a meeting with OSHA's Connie Hunt on April 13, Pierce met to discuss OSHA's full team of inspectors' activity in preparing the baseline study, and to continue efforts to build occupational safety and compliance through the joint cooperative effort between the groups. Strasheim reported that OSHA was conducting the first comprehensive industry study in Saipan since 1996.

April 23, 2001

### NMHC's loan program benefits 126 families

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation over the weekend announced that it is persistently providing assistance to the public with respect to mortgage servicing. Under the NMHC-MPLT Loan Program, NMHC was able to accommodate a total of 126 recipients with a total aggregate amount of \$8,581,59.20, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. The additional amount infused into the economy came in time with the setup of loans being purchased by the Bank of Hawaii and Bank Pacific. NMHC recently received a portion of the remaining funds (\$2,233,000.00) from the original amount of \$10 million. Other loans like the "Direct Loan Program" also made a large impact.

### Teno hoping for a deal on 3-year limit stay law

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday expressed optimism the Senate and the House of Representatives will reach a compromise agreement that will put to rest controversies surrounding the three-year stay limit law. Tenorio said legislators should recognize the local economy's heavy dependence on nonresident workers, pointing out that an exodus will only aggravate economic conditions in the CNMI. However, the governor also mentioned the need to start preparing local workforce for private sector jobs since the Northern Marianas cannot forever rely on foreign manpower.

April 23, 2002

### CPA courting Philippine Airlines back

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will formalize negotiations with Philippine Airlines executives next month, in line with plans to reinstate nonstop Manila-Saipan flights previously provided by the carrier. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday disclosed that he is scheduled to meet with PAL officials next month to thresh out concerns raised during a discussion between the CNMI and the Philippine delegations two months back. Salas pointed out that the meeting also seeks to concretize earlier plans by the Philippine flag carrier to reinstate the Manila-Saipan flights.

### Envoys' summit to focus on trade, tourism

Preparations for the first-ever Consuls General Summit Conference, which will be held on Saipan in May, kicked off yesterday with a free-wheeling discussion between the Babauta administration and the consuls general of Japan, the Philippines and Palau on issues ranging from delayed Authorization To Board documents to enhanced tourism promotion efforts. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said he would soon be naming members to a committee that would work with the consuls general in threshing out the logistics of the summit, which would be attended by diplomats from, among others, the Philippines, Japan, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Australia and South Korea.

## NOTICE: SABALU FARMERS' MARKET

Change of location for  
April 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday only

The Market  
will be held in  
Garapan,

across Kristo Rai Church  
Same time: 6:00am to 12:00 noon!



Buy the freshest and  
best-priced produce  
on island.

See you April 25<sup>th</sup> at Garapan  
All locally  
grown with pride!  
Support our Farmers  
and enjoy their fresh produce!



ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009.

DATE: Friday, 24 April 2009

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building  
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office  
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Adoption of Minutes
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Old Business
  - None
- VII. New Business
  - RCGC Administrative Budget
  - Business Forms/Applications
- VIII. Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

\*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao  
Chairman





# Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

April 23, thru  
April 29, 2009

## Department Store



**AXE Deodorant**  
2.7oz./Body  
Spray 4oz.

**\$5.49**



**Suave**  
Body Wash  
12oz.

**\$2.89**



**Dove Body**  
Wash 12oz.

**\$4.79**

SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER  
TEL.: 234-6446  
THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M. / SUN. 8:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.

DANDAN SUPERMARKET  
TEL.: 235-6016  
MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

HABA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER  
TEL.: 234-7596  
MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.

KAGMAN MARKET  
TEL.: 256-6441  
MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 10:00P.M.

## Supermarket

**Great Savings!**



**Mata Rose**  
Calrose Rice 40lb.

**\$22.99** /bg.



**Sapporo Ichiban**  
Original 3.5oz.

**\$7.98** /cs.  
\$0.50 each

**Win! Win! Win!**  
**Mother's Day**  
**Promo!**

**Sunday Brunch**  
for 9 at Palms Resort,  
Pick up to and from  
by Limousine and  
Gift Basket.

Promoted by

**MAR PAC**

**JOETEN**  
**ACE**  
HARDWARE

**Charmin Toilet**  
Tissue 4pk.  
sku # 6089601  
**\$2.99**

**Bounty Basic**  
Paper Towel  
8 Rolls  
sku # 6114045  
**\$9.99**

**New Arrival!**



**JOETEN**  
**ACE**  
HARDWARE

**Come and visit us for more sale!**  
**Hurry, while supplies last!**

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm/Sunday 8am - 5pm

**SUSUPE BRANCH**  
Joeten Shopping Center Beach Road, Susupe  
Tel: 234-3117 or 6448 - Fax: 235-7568

**GUALO RAI BRANCH**  
Gualo Rai Commercial Center  
Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

**SAN VICENTE BRANCH**  
San Vicente Road  
Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER  
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Shocking the conscience: Bush administration made waterboarding almost routine

It was depressing enough when U.S. officials finally admitted last year that the country had waterboarded terrorism detainees. Bush administration officials from the president on down tried to quell the ensuing outcry by reassuring the country and the rest of the world that the technique, which simulates drowning and has been considered torture since it was introduced during the Spanish Inquisition, had been used only on high-ranking, "high-value" members of terrorist groups and only to obtain information necessary to avert an imminent and catastrophic attack. The administration and its band of lawyers argued that the application of such harsh interrogation techniques did not "shock the conscience" and thus abided by domestic and international strictures against torture because their use was limited, targeted and meant to save innocent lives.

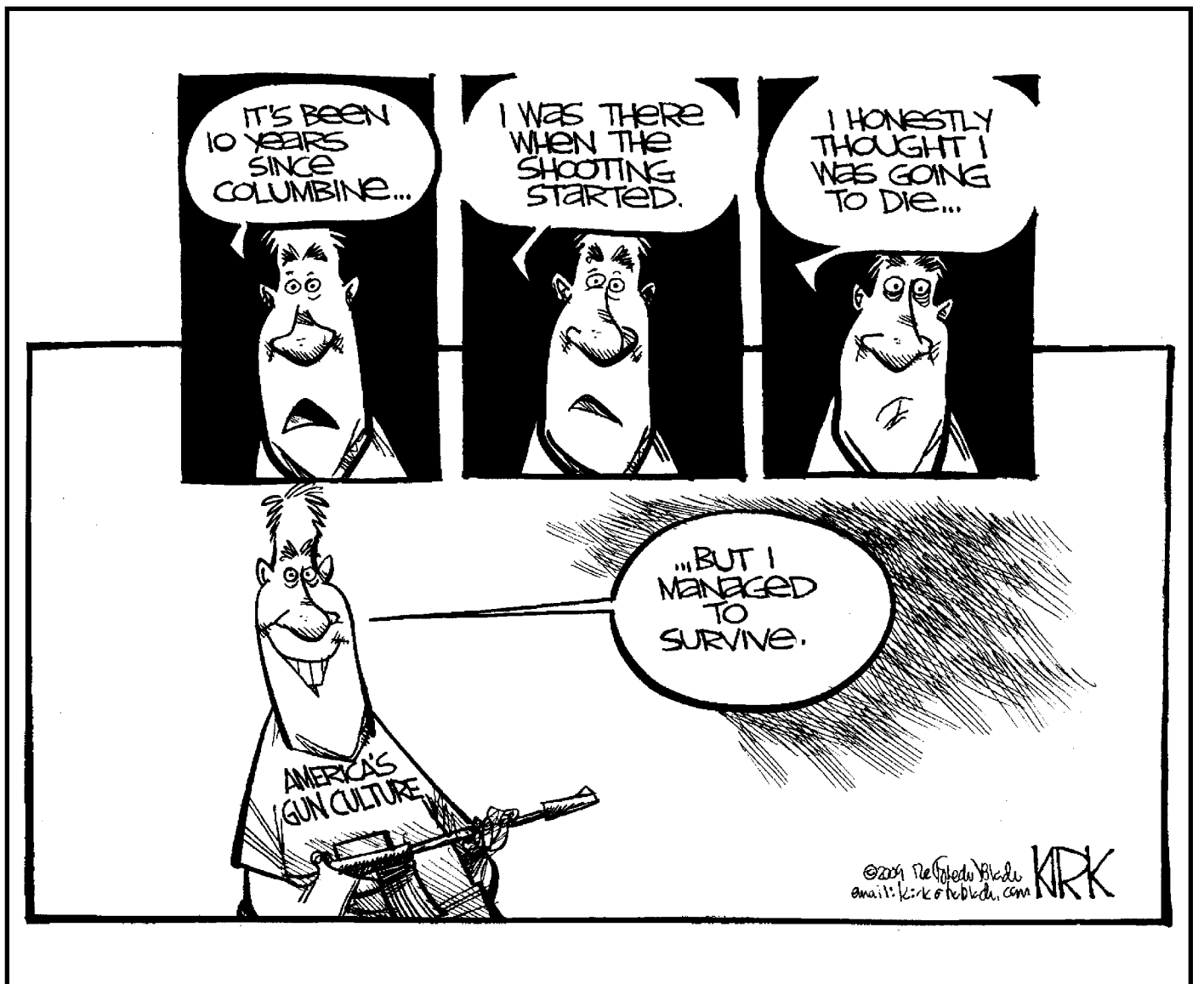
Now comes the revelation that CIA interrogators were far from restrained in their use of this ancient and cruel technique.

According to a recently released Justice Department memo, CIA operatives subjected two al-Qaida leaders — alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and high-level lieutenant Abu Zubaida — to 266 episodes of waterboarding. Mr. Mohammed is said to have been waterboarded 183 times in March 2003 — for an average of six episodes a day of what has been described as among the most terrifying and brutal forms of coercive interrogation. Mr. Zubaida was subjected to water torture 83 times during August 2002. There is no mention of how many times a third detainee, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, was waterboarded. Had any foreign government or terrorist group treated U.S. citizens in this way, the country would have been appalled — and rightly so.

The details are contained in a section of a May 30, 2005, memo from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel released last week by President Obama. First reported online by such blogs as Empty-wheel, the section takes its information from a confidential report issued by the CIA's inspector general.

The savagery of extremists cannot justify the abdication of principles or the adoption of means as brutal as those of the extremists.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



## Obama's quick foreign policy fixes run into stubborn world problems

WASHINGTON—New American presidents typically begin by behaving as if most of the world's problems are the fault of their predecessors—and Barack Obama has been no exception. In his first three months he has quickly taken steps to correct the errors in George W. Bush's foreign policy, as seen by Democrats. He has collected easy dividends from his base, U.S. allies in Europe and a global following for not being "unilateralist" or war-mongering or scornful of dialogue with enemies.

Now comes the interesting part: when it starts to become evident that Bush did not create rogue states, terrorist movements, Middle Eastern blood feuds or Russian belligerence—and that shake-ups in U.S. diplomacy, however enlightened, might not have much impact on them.

The first wake-up call has come from North Korea—a state that, according to established Democratic wisdom, would have given up its nuclear weapons years ago if it had not been labeled "evil" by Bush, denied bilateral talks with Washington and punished with sanctions. Stephen Bosworth, the administration's new special envoy, duly tried to head off Pyongyang's latest illegal missile test by promising bilateral negotiations and offering "incentives" for good behavior.

North Korea fired the missile anyway. After a week of U.N. Security Council negotiations by the new, multilateralist U.S. administration produced the same weak statement that the Bush administration would have gotten, the Stalinist regime expelled U.N. inspectors and announced that it was returning to plutonium production.

When the inspectors were ousted in 2002, Democrats blamed Bush. Now Republicans blame Obama—but North Korea's strategy hasn't changed in 15 years. It provokes a crisis, then demands bribes from the United States and South Korea in exchange for restoring the status quo. The Obama team now faces the same dilemma that bedeviled the past two administrations: It must judge whether to respond to the bad behavior by paying the bribe or by trying to squeeze the regime.

A second cold shower rained down last week on George Mitchell, Obama's special envoy to the Middle East. For eight years Democrats insisted that the absence of progress toward peace between Israel and its neighbors was due to the Bush administration's failure at "engagement." Mitchell embodies the correction. But during last week's tour of the region he encountered a divided Palestinian movement seemingly incapable of agreeing on a stance toward Is-

By JACKSON DIEHL  
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

rael and a new Israeli government that doesn't accept the goal of Palestinian statehood. Neither appeared at all impressed by the new American intervention—or willing to offer even token concessions.

Those aren't the only signs that the new medicine isn't taking. Europeans commonly blamed Bush for Russia's aggressiveness—they said he ignored Moscow's interests and pressed too hard for European missile defense and NATO membership for Georgia and Ukraine. So Hillary Clinton made a show of pushing a "reset" button, and Obama offered the Kremlin a new arms control agreement while putting missile defense and NATO expansion on a back burner. Yet in recent weeks Russia has deployed thousands of additional troops as well as tanks and warplanes to the two breakaway Georgian republics it has recognized, in blatant violation of the cease-fire agreement that ended last year's war. The threat of another Russian attack on Georgia seems to be going up rather than down.

Obama sent a conciliatory public message to Iranians, and the United States joined in a multilateral proposal for new negotiations on its nuclear program. The regime responded by announcing another expansion of its uranium enrichment facility and placing an American journalist on trial for espionage. Obama told Iraqis that he would, as long promised, use troop withdrawals to pressure the government to take over responsibility for the country. Since he made that announcement, violence in Iraq has steadily increased.

Obama is not the first president to discover that facile changes in U.S. policy don't crack long-standing problems. Some of his new strategies may produce results with time. Yet the real test of an administration is what it does once it realizes that the quick fixes aren't working—that, say, North Korea and Iran have no intention of giving up their nuclear programs, with or without dialogue, while Russia remains determined to restore its dominion over Georgia. In other words, what happens when it's no longer George W. Bush's fault? That's what the next 100 days will tell us.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Improving your child's IQ

Some research suggests that poor people have an IQ (Intelligence Quotient) significantly lower than those of rich people, and conventional wisdom has attributed this, in large part, to a function of genetics. The view that a person's intelligence is inherited has been widely held for many years. A depressing conclusion is that neither schooling nor programs to reduce poverty could achieve much success to raise IQ's.

However, Richard Nisbett, in his new book, *Intelligence and How to Get It*, has demolished that theory and demonstrated that IQ is not inherited and that it is possible to raise the IQ of children, individually and collectively. Nisbett, who is a professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, believes that intelligence is something that is expandable. For example, if children are told, and believe that intelligence is under their control and that they can get better grades if they work hard, then they will tend to perform better and they can raise their IQ.

When we first moved to Saipan, we were told by some well-intentioned people to not put our children in public schools because they would be a grade behind when we decided to move back to the United States. In the past 12 years, our seven children have attended public school, private school, and we even home schooled some for a few years. Even though the curriculum at some of the schools lack some courses we would have liked our children to take, we don't feel their education was lacking. Our oldest daughter graduated with three associate degrees from NMC and earned a bachelor's degree in Hawaii by the time she was 20 years old.

We have come up with our own conclusions about education and what can be done to improve a child's academic performance. When we examined the schools and what they offered, we did not feel it was the school administrators or teachers that were to blame

for any perceived lack of educational quality. We also felt that, overall, private schools did not have an edge over public schools. One can find outstanding teachers and administrators at both public and private schools.

The factor that we feel made the biggest difference is the motivation level of students to want to learn and that is a result of their home environment and parental involvement. Those students that tend to excel typically grow up in a home where education is a high priority. If that theory holds any water, it means that parents who earned a degree or continued to learn after high school will tend to encourage and support their children's educational success. Likewise, those parents who do not consider education a priority tend to not encourage, and give less support to their child's success in the classroom. Eric Turkheimer of the University of Virginia believes that a bad environment even suppresses a child's IQ.

The reason children at private schools tend to do better is not because the children are more intelligent; it's because the parents are more involved with their children's education, and have made a financial investment to see their children succeed academically. Some parents cannot afford to put their child in a private school, but place a high priority on education. In practically every case, we would bet that their children would outperform children who grow up in a home that places a lower value on education. The exception would be those rare children who thirst for knowledge, despite being raised in an academically challenged home environment.

Here are a few suggestions that you, as a parent, can do to support your child and raise their IQ. Ask your child's teacher what you can do to help the child at home and in the classroom. Ask to see your children's school work and ensure that they do their homework. Become actively involved in the PTA program at your child's school.

### By Rik and Janel Villegas

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC ([www.bizresults.org](http://www.bizresults.org)). They can be contacted at [biz\\_results@yahoo.com](mailto:biz_results@yahoo.com).



Praise their effort more than their achievement. If they are having difficulty in a subject and they make an effort to do better but fail, they may give up. However, if they try their best and don't do as well as you hoped, but you are there to praise them for their attempt, then they will feel compelled to continue their effort.

Teach delayed gratification. In other words, it sometimes takes a sustained effort before the results are apparent. As your child develops better study habits over time, his or her academic performance will improve. We live in a world of instant gratification, but sometimes the best things in life take time to realize.

Help your child to explore their interests and take up new hobbies—especially during the summer months. Children's IQ's tend to drop or stagnate over the summer months if they are not actively engaged in some type of learning. Television, Internet, and video games can become an obsession with children and rob them of their time to pursue other interests. Children are naturally curious and want to explore and learn new things. Support them in their interests and allow them to express themselves and develop their talents. Imagine what would happen if education was really a priority at the government, community, and home level.

## The American way: If death is inevitable, retirement isn't

By MARJORIE MILLER  
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

I was on the final approach to 50, having just convinced myself that half a century isn't really so old, when the inevitable envelope arrived from the AARP, formerly the American Association of Retired Persons. Unfortunately, mine landed alongside a letter from the Neptune Society extolling the virtues of cremation. Do these people simply work off the same Social Security list, or were they coordinating their efforts to nudge me out the door?

Fifty came and went, and so did 51, and I'm still here. So is my faithful correspondent, the AARP, which no longer bothers to spell out "retired persons." That seems like a sensible decision, especially if my accountant is right that members of my generation will be working into our 90s. The AARP might want to consider changing its name to the Association for the Forever Employed.

The Neptune Society hasn't given up on me either. This year, it sent a survey with a cover letter about "facing the truth." The truth, according to Neptune, is that "death is what makes our lives so precious, exquisite and magnificent." I always thought that life was what made our lives magnificent and that death was the turd in the punch bowl. My dad thought so too. A machine-tool salesman with a gift for getting to the point, he used to shrug off his birthday with the phrase, "considering the alternative." Or he'd say, "Beats pushing up daisies." After he died, I planted daisies, which were in full

bloom when the survey arrived.

"Dear Marjorie," the Neptune letter began. I was taken aback at the assumption that death and I were on a first-name basis but continued reading. "No doubt," I had given thought to matters of death and had ideas about my "final arrangements." Actually, I hadn't. I'd given a lot of thought to all the terrible ways one can die—brain tumors, earthquakes—and sometimes, when life had seemed truly exquisite, I'd looked around to make sure I wasn't about to get hit by a bus. But I hadn't planned what should happen next, let alone picked out mood music for the after-party.

The survey asked if I found discussing death ("select all that apply"): "unnecessary," "embarrassing," "frightening," "interesting," "responsible," "depressing," "joyous." I didn't know what to check, and then it dawned on me that the reason I'm not discussing death is because I'm too busy not retiring.

Neptune also wanted to know how I would describe my own life, and helpfully listed the options: "fulfilling and meaningful"; "made a difference in the world"; "one big adventure." This was not a survey for slackers or existentialists. I wrote in "other."

The rest of the questions were mostly about final arrangements and which of its services (including "eco-friendly cremation" and "green funerals") I might want.

Honestly, I knew that some people planned their own funerals, but I had never understood why. Now I see it's a way to have the last word.

prism is provincial politics, never the long-term consequences of shortsighted policies that shore up more obligations against the limited coffers of the Fund.

The inclusion of grandchildren as beneficiaries—expanding the payment beyond a member's contribution—is a noble thing to do but one that would drain the limited funds of the program over the long term. This should be put to a halt forthwith!

The 30 percent bonus for early retirement is as sweet as honey political agenda encouraging early retirement but one that instantly bankrupts the local government as it struggles to find replenishment.

In more ways than one, we've failed to acknowledge that the enemy is us! It makes sense that prudence and frugality is exercised to the hilt to protect the Fund from incurring obligations it can't afford.

Finally, no court in the land can willingly force a bankrupt government to cough up what is owed given that common sense dictates that you don't kill Juan so that Bill can live. If this is so difficult to comprehend, then perhaps we all must return to Economics 101 and I would invite my friend Bill Stewart, an alleged economist of stature, to join me in this class.

John S. DelRosario Jr.  
As Gonno, Saipan

The survey asked whether I would consider building a photo message, writing a speech, making a recording or preparing a multimedia show and/or Web site for my "end of life" celebration. For a moment, I contemplated the possibilities for airbrushing the blemishes out of my own history and adding a few flourishes, say, a Nobel Prize. I began to consider the invite list for my Facebook page.

But then I remembered: I don't want to celebrate the end of my life. I want to keep on living.

Miller is a Los Angeles Times editorial writer.

## US recession, to the letter

By CARLOS LOZADA  
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—A hot debate among economists in Washington involves the future shape of the United States' recession, now 16 months old and counting. Will it be V-shaped, as in a steep decline followed by a rapid recovery? How about U-shaped, with a longer downturn and slower upswing? Or even L-shaped, featuring a quick plunge that flatlines forever?

An alternative forecast is taking hold around town: the W-shaped recession, in which the economy falls and bounces back soon, only to decline yet again.

In a recent podcast from the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Deputy Director Adam Posen explains why our future looks like a W. First, even after the fiscal stimulus and the home refinancing frenzy work their way through the economy, the nation's banks will still be in a bad way. Despite the administration's efforts, banks won't lend as much as they should and will simply roll over bad loans. That portends another banking crisis "a year or two down the road," Posen said.

Second, even setting banking troubles aside, the American economy is not what it used to be, he said, with productivity and the labor force growing more slowly. So the economy may not be able to grow as fast as it did a few years ago. In that case, an economic recovery could spark inflation, Posen argues, and the Fed would hike short-term interest rates, choking off growth.

President Obama has spoken recently of "glimmers of hope" in the economy; Posen concurs that growth could resume as early as the fall—but maybe not for long.

"Everybody's picking up a letter in the alphabet," Posen said. "Despite the bad association of it, I'm in favor of the letter W, which is that we get a bounce now, but very quickly thereafter we go back down again."

### Letter to the Editor

## Liberal policies ruined Fund

For many years, politicians have rendered the Fund liberal policy issues that contributed to the current mess. For instance, it wasn't until recently that someone had the courage to slam the 3 percent per year increase in legislators' annuities for reasons only known and good for lawmakers. Was this privilege extended to other members of the Fund? If not, may we ask why not?

Then there's the increase in annuities handed down on a silver platter for retirees who worked for the naval administration and the old Trust Territory government. Was this political gift earned by recipients? If not, then why was it given? Isn't this one of assorted liberal policies that now bleeds the Fund of money? But it had to be used for re-election purposes, right? At whose expense? Isn't this a major culprit of what's known as unfunded liabilities?






The hierarchical misapplication of woefully generous policies emanating from the Legislature is largely a part of the vicious equation to sink the Fund right into the sea of insolvency. Their



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

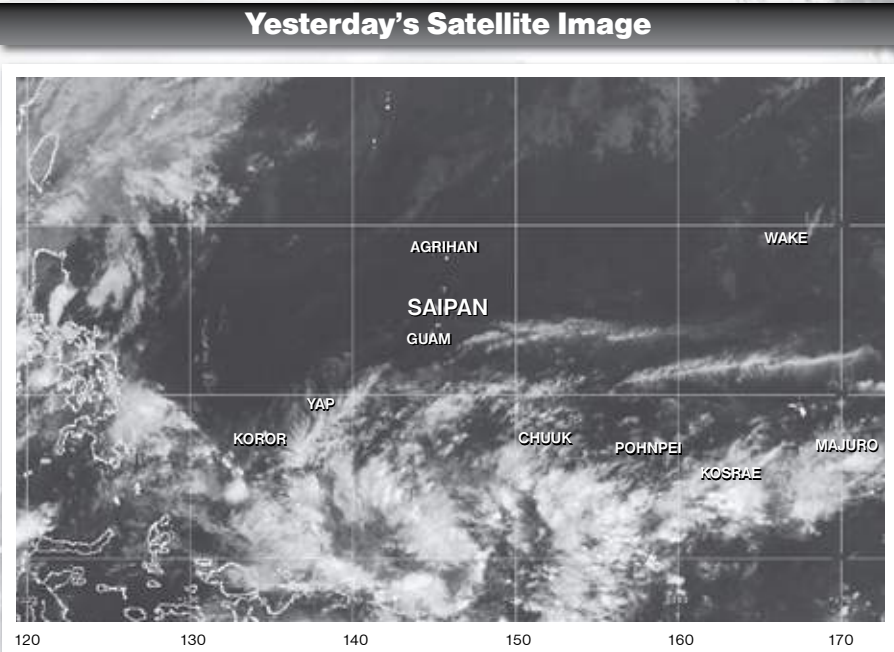
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 50
Beijing	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 45
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 77
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 77 ▼ 68
London	Partly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 45
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 56
Manila	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 71
New York	Partly Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 47
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 44
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 48
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 50
Rome	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 52
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 34
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 48
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 44
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 49
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 44

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
12:06 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:03 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:43 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:56 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front enters the northwest corner of the discussion area at 25N140E and extends beyond 130E at 23N. Cloudiness and scattered light showers are located within an area bounded by a line from 25N130E to 23N135E to 20N130E back to 25N130E. A monsoon trough stretches northwestward from a circulation centered at 1N144E past 7N130E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms cover a large area around the circulation and along the trough axis between the equator and 6N from 132E to 150E. This area is southwest of Chuuk and south of Koror and Yap. Strong trade wind convergence with an embedded surface trough is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms covering an extensive area of the Marshalls and eastern Micronesia bounded by a line from 6N150E to 4N160E to EQ160E to EQ153E back to 6N150E. Another area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located within 125 miles of a line from 3N160E to 6N172E. This area includes Kosrae.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:58 AM	6:33 PM	Today	4:10 AM	4:46 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM	Friday	4:50 AM	5:41 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM	Saturday	5:34 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM	Sunday	6:22 AM	7:43 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM	Monday	7:17 AM	8:48 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			<b>Rota-Saipan</b>		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am 5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b>			<b>Guam-Saipan</b>		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b>			<b>Narita-Saipan</b>		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Narita</b>			<b>Narita-Guam</b>		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b>			<b>Osaka-Saipan</b>		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
<b>Guam-Osaka</b>			<b>Osaka-Guam</b>		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b>			<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b>		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Nagoya</b>			<b>Nagoya-Guam</b>		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b>			<b>Incheon-Saipan</b>		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b>			<b>Busan-Saipan</b>		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b>			<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b>		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b>			<b>Guam-Rota</b>		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am 5,6
<b>Guam-Palau</b>			<b>Palau-Guam</b>		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am	5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am	5:30am 4,6
<b>Palau-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Palau</b>		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1 3,5
<b>Guam-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Guam</b>		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm	4:05am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Nagoya-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Nagoya</b>		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am	11:05am Daily
<b>Incheon-Hongkong</b>			<b>Hongkong-Incheon</b>		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am	4:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm Daily
<b>Narita-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Narita</b>		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm Daily
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily	
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily	
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily	
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily	
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily	
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily	
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**				
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily	
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily	
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily	
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily	
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily	
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily	
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily	
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily	

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

- REQUIREMENTS**
  - **For pictures:**
    - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
    - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
    - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
    - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
    - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
  - **For announcements:**
    - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
- HOW TO SUBMIT**
  - E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  - To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

- POLICY**
  - The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
  - The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
  - For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Alberti named superintendent of Saipan, Guam parks

Barbara Alberti, an 18-year veteran of the National Park Service, is the newly appointed superintendent at the American Memorial Park on Saipan and the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam, the two NPS units located west of the International Dateline and closest to Japan.

Alberti follows Sarah Creachbaum, who recently transferred from the superintendency in Guam to superintendent of Haleakala National Park on Maui, Hawaii. An interim superintendent, Steve Gibbons, is serving as acting superintendent until Alberti arrives in Guam in the early summer.

"I am impressed with Bar-

bara's collaborative and resource management skills," said NPS regional director Jonathan B. Jarvis, in making the appointment.

War in the Pacific National Historical Park and the American Memorial Park recognize American actions in the northern Pacific Theater during World War II. These two areas, located on islands 120 miles apart, also shelter coral reefs and marine life. Guam is a territory of the United States. Saipan is part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. Both park areas also are part of the educational role identified in the new World War II Valor in the Pacific Na-



Alberti

tional Monument.

"I look forward to working with the well-respected park staff and many park friends and neighbors on these two islands," said Alberti.

Alberti is the chief of natural

resources and fire management at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area outside of Redding, in the upper Sacramento Valley of California. In this capacity, she has coordinated planning programs and collaborated on resource management and science based decision making. She also has served as chief of interpretation in the park, a position that directs the educational and outreach rangers and programs at the park.

Whiskeytown, in the heart of gold rush country, preserves the cultural history of early gold mining alongside the modern engineering of the Central Valley water project. Whiskeytown Lake is surrounded by

remnant old growth forests, numerous trails, and beaches making it a popular destination for local outdoor enthusiasts.

Alberti served at Coronado National Memorial in southern Arizona for 14 years in several capacities, including park ranger, integrated resources manager, and as acting superintendent.

She has also worked on special projects for the NPS at Redwood and Grand Canyon National Parks and is a 2007 graduate of the Mid-Level Management Development Program.

Alberti served as a Peace Corps volunteer for two years in Senegal as a natural resources extension agent. She collaborated with a German aid organization promoting cashew plantations in small villages to provide a cash crop from the nuts and improve nutrition with the cashew "apples."

Having a natural aptitude for languages, she speaks Spanish, German, French, Italian, and Wolof. She has published a number of biological monographs and papers. (PR)

## NMI represented as nat'l service law OK'd

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan joined a select group of members of Congress at a public charter school in southeast Washington yesterday to witness President Barack Obama sign into law the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The new law is the most far-reaching expansion of opportunities for national service in almost a generation. Sablan was an original cosponsor of the bill and spoke in support of it during debate on the House floor.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act was brought to life through a collaboration between the Senate and the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor, of which Sablan is a member. The Act has been hailed as landmark legislation that will not only encourage a new generation of Americans to engage in public service, but will also create positions that will help to simulate the

economy and provide benefits to those in need.

"Throughout his campaign and the first months of his administration, President Obama has encouraged Americans to engage in service to their own communities and to the nation," said Sablan. "I am so proud to have been able to add the support of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to the President's call for service."

"One only need look at the tremendous turnout for this weekend's island-wide cleanup to see that the people of the Northern Marianas are willing give of themselves in order to make their community better," said Sablan. "That is the spirit that the Serve America Act seeks to encourage throughout our nation."

Serve America expands the number of service-oriented jobs funded by the US

government from 75,000 to 250,000. It, also, creates several new service groups, including a Clean Energy Corps, an Education Corps, a Healthy Futures Corps, and a Veterans Service Corps.

New opportunities will be available for senior citizens, as well as for disadvantaged and foster youth and for those with disabilities. These volunteer positions benefit participants not only with work experience, new professional relationships, and valuable job skills, but also by giving them money for college.

Also attending yesterday's event was Sen. Edward M. Kennedy himself, whose voice was strong, though his hands trembled on the podium. Kennedy is battling brain tumor.

He was joined by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), chairman George Miller (D-CA), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA),

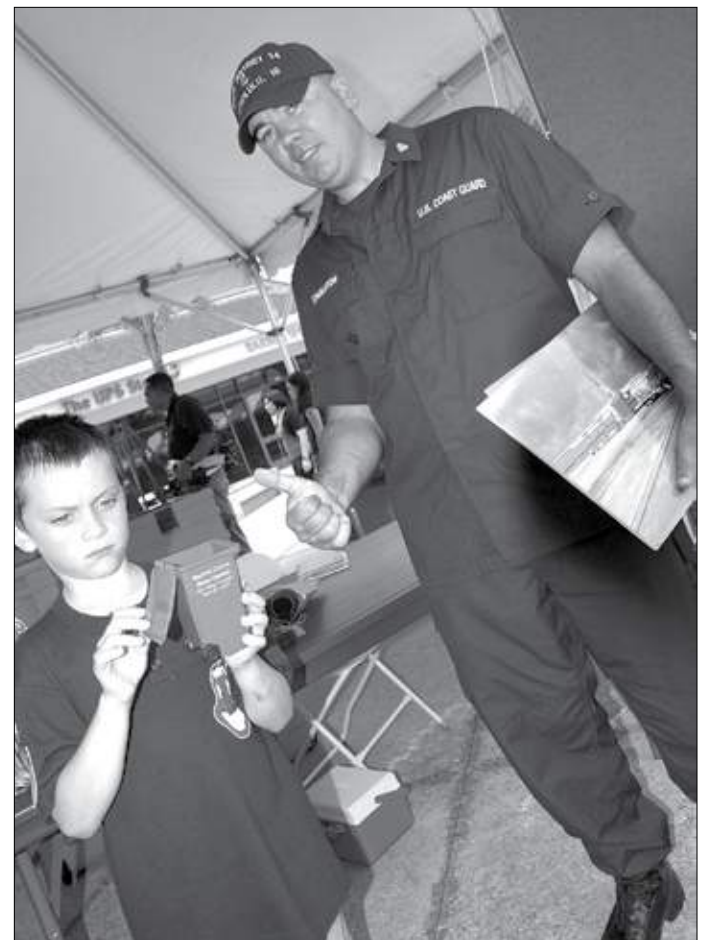
and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). Other members of the audience for the historic occasion were first lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, former President Bill Clinton, former first lady Rosalind Carter, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"As an original cosponsor of this legislation," said Sablan, "I am thrilled to see it signed into law by a President who believes so strongly in the cause of service. This new law will provide an opportunity for all Americans—and that includes us in the Northern Marianas—to participate in activities that will strengthen our communities and provide benefits to our citizens."

"I encourage everyone to take part in community and national service and I congratulate my fellow members of Congress and President Obama on completing this wonderful piece of legislation." (PR)



Sablan



### EARTH DAY EXPO

U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Todd Singleton of the 14th Coast Guard District, headquartered in Honolulu, educates Nicolas Swarton of Kaneohe of the importance of resource conservation, environmental protection and about the Coast Guard's Sand Island base's self-sustainment initiative. The Coast Guard participated in a Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Earth Day Expo, Saturday, April 18, 2009, in Kaneohe. The Earth Day Expo included environmental education resources, energy conservation displays and a variety of events to help promote Earth Day. Other events included a performance by a former Miss Hawaii, Kanoe Miller, who performed the hula, and a performance by dancers from the Polynesian Culture Center.

U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO/PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS MICHAEL DE NYSE

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Briefing today for Purple Heart recipients

This is to invite all Purple Heart recipients and their dependents to an information briefing by Jack Shimuzu, commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Pacific Areas. The briefing will be held today, April 23, 2009, starting 8am, at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, building 1364 Capital Hill. He will be available all day until 3pm. For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. (PR)

#### OPA to visit Rota today, Tinian tomorrow

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota today, April 23, 2009, and on Tinian tomorrow, April 24, 2009, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. Filers on Rota may visit

the Rota Mayor's Office today from 11am to 3:30pm. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission conference room tomorrow from 9am to 4:30pm. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. (PR)

#### Santa Soledad Annual Fiesta

The public is invited to join the Annual Fiesta celebration of Santa Soledad on April 26, 2009, 9am, at the Kagman Church. There will be foods, entertainment and other activities. (PR)

#### Prior Service Benefit Program notice

The Prior Service Trust Fund board has declared that effective

May 1, 2009, adopted children will be prohibited in the determination of survivor benefits. Only the surviving spouse and natural children will be considered as dependents under the program. (PR)

#### NMC Charter Day competitions briefing, preliminary dates set

In anticipation of NMC's Charter Day on May 8, the Charter Day Entertainment Committee will be conducting briefings and auditions/rehearsals for various competitions and events, which include Marianas Idol, Battle of the Bands and CNMI's Best Dance Crew. Individuals interested in competing in the upcoming Charter Day competitions are strongly encouraged to attend the pre-competition briefings on the following dates:

■ April 23, 2009 for Marianas Idol (5pm at the Student Center

in Bldg. J)

■ April 24, 2009 for Battle of the Bands (5pm at the Student Center in Bldg. J)

■ April 25, 2009 for CNMI's Best Dance Crew (10am at the Student Center in Bldg. J)

The scoring rubric and other regulations will be discussed. The NMC Charter Day Entertainment Committee will also be holding auditions/rehearsals on the following days:

■ May 4, 2009 for Marianas Idol (5pm - 8pm in Room D-1)

■ May 5, 2009 for CNMI's Best Dance Crew (5pm - 8pm in Room D-1)

■ May 6, 2009 for Battle of the Bands (5pm - 8pm in Room D-1)

For more information, contact Ivan Mereb at 234-5498 ext 1251, e-mail [ivanm@nmcnet.edu](mailto:ivanm@nmcnet.edu), or log on to [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu). Applications are available at the NMC Student Center in Building J of the College's As Terlaje campus. (NMC)

## NMPASI sets Family Fun Fair and Awareness Day

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. will be hosting a Family Fun Fair and Awareness Day on May 2, 2009, from 8am to 12pm, at the Minatchom Atdao in Susupe, Saipan.

As part of the event, NMPASI is holding an essay contest on the topic: "My story: What good mental health means to me and three things I do for myself to feel better when I feel unhappy."

The essay contest is open to everyone in the Commonwealth. Entries must be less than two pages long and must be submitted to the NMPASI office on Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, on or before 4pm on April 30, 2009.

Entries may be delivered to the NMPASI office or faxed to 235-7275 or emailed to [jeanneesq@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneesq@yahoo.com).

Winners will be announced on May 2, 2009, at the Family Fun Fair and Awareness Day.

Prizes will be awarded to winners in the following categories:

- Category 1: Ages 6-12
- Category 2: Ages 13-15
- Category 3: Ages 16-18
- Category 4: Adults over 18 years

For more information, contact Kaye Christian at 288-5293 or Jeanne Rayphand at 235-7273. (NMPASI)



# Business

## Treasury completes \$29.8B boost to AIG rescue

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government has completed the transaction providing nearly \$30 billion more in support to American International Group Inc., minus \$165 million in bonus payments.

The Treasury Department also announced Tuesday that it has added Bank of America Corp. and Countrywide Home Loans Servicing to its mortgage relief program. That means a total of nine companies are participating in the \$75 billion effort.

The department also approved the applications for six more banks to participate in the \$700 billion financial rescue program, bringing the total number of banks being helped to 553.

The government has made four separate efforts to save AIG. The Obama administration announced it was providing the latest \$30 billion on March 2, a day when the AIG also announced that it had lost \$62 billion for the fourth quarter.

In all, including resources put up by the Federal Reserve, AIG has received \$182 billion in government support as authorities



In this March 19, 2009, file photo a car speeds past the sign for American International Group's (AIG) Financial Products offices in Wilton, Conn. Public scrutiny of the failed insurance giant has helped create momentum for the idea of national rules for the insurance industry, despite the fact that the company's troubles were mostly caused by the exotic investments of the group's Financial Products offices, rather than its insurance practices.

have struggled to proposition up the giant insurer for fear of what a collapse might do to the already shaky U.S. financial system.

Treasury confirmed in the transaction report released Tuesday that the \$30 billion in support announced on March 2 was being trimmed by \$165 million. That represented the amount in bonuses AIG initially paid to employees of an AIG unit that sold credit default swaps, the

risky contracts that caused massive losses for the insurer. AIG's announcement of those bonuses last month had caused a political firestorm in Congress.

The Treasury transaction report said that Bank of America had qualified for up to a maximum of \$798.9 million in incentive payments, which are designed to encourage mortgage companies to lower borrowers' monthly bills. Treasury

said Countrywide had qualified for up to \$1.86 billion. Countrywide, once the largest U.S. mortgage lender, was purchased by Bank of America last year. The two new selections in the mortgage program bring the total in incentive payments up to a maximum of \$13.2 billion.

The announcement on six more banks qualifying for sales of preferred stock to the government brought the total amount awarded

in this program to \$198.9 billion. The six new banks got a total of \$40.9 million with the largest amount, \$13.2 million, going to Bank of the Carolinas Corp. of North Carolina.

The transactions covered by the new report were completed last Friday. Under the law that created the \$700 billion bailout program, the government has two business days to disclose new transactions.

## Banks still in distress, Geithner tells overseers

WASHINGTON (AP)—America's banks are still broken despite all their bailout billions, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told impatient rescue overseers Tuesday as they pressed him on when things will get better and how much it will cost. A bleak new report estimated U.S. banks and other financial institutions could lose a stunning \$2.7 trillion in all.

How well is the mostly-spent \$700 billion federal bailout working? "To date, frankly, the evidence is mixed," Geithner told a congressionally appointed oversight panel.

Confidence in the program is wearing thin on Capitol Hill. With lawmakers back from their spring break, even bailout supporters are skeptical that

Congress—weary of bankers' bonuses and still-scarce credit—would approve additional bank rescue money if requested.

Geithner's testimony signaled that the administration was not preparing to ask.

Wall Street was cheered by Geithner's assessment that "the vast majority" of banks could be considered well-capitalized. Bank stocks had slid on Monday but bounced back on Tuesday.

Still, the government's effort to stabilize the financial sector and unclog credit markets has come under heavy scrutiny. Officials must do a better job in carrying out and explaining its efforts to shore up the financial system, the head of the oversight panel told Geithner.

## Yahoo's feeble Q1 triggers nearly 700 more layoffs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo Inc.'s first-quarter results tread familiar ground as the Internet company's financial erosion triggered another round of layoffs and management promised better days ahead.

With its three-year slump worsening, Yahoo said Tuesday that it will lay off nearly 700 workers. It's the first significant

payroll purge since Yahoo hired Carol Bartz as its new chief executive in January, but marks the Sunnyvale-based company's third round of job cuts during the past 14 months.

Meanwhile, investors are hoping that the challenges still facing Yahoo will persuade the company it's finally time to work out an Internet advertising partnership

with Microsoft Corp. after more than two years of intermittent talks. Both companies would like to lessen Internet search leader Google Inc.'s dominance of the online ad market.

In a Tuesday conference call with analysts, Bartz refused to comment on recent media reports about the Microsoft negotiations heating up again.

## Oil hovers under \$49 ahead of US inventory report

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered below \$49 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as traders worried that a weekly U.S. crude inventories report will show demand remains weak amid a severe recession.

Benchmark crude for June delivery rose 20 cents to \$48.75 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New

York Mercantile Exchange. The contract Tuesday gained 4 cents to settle at \$48.55 a barrel.

The May contract, which expired Tuesday, rose 63 cents to settle at \$46.51.

Traders will be eyeing the weekly petroleum inventory data that the Energy Information Agency plans to release later Wednesday. Analysts ex-

pects crude stocks to jump 3 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos. Crude stocks already are near 19-year highs. "We're going to see another build in crude inventories," said Jonathan Kornafel, Asia director for market maker Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Amazon launches HD movie rental, TV show sales

SEATTLE (AP)—Online retailer Amazon.com Inc. said Tuesday it is adding high-definition video to its on-demand service, offering consumers the ability to rent movies and purchase television episodes shown in HD. "Our customers have been asking us for two things: HD and the ability to watch movies and TV shows instantly on their television," said Bill Carr, Amazon vice president of music and video, in a statement. The Seattle-based company said it will add more than 500 HD TV shows and

movies to its Amazon Video On Demand service. Titles are from major networks and studios like Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc., Sony Pictures, Paramount Pictures and Showtime Networks, with new-release movie titles including "Twilight" and "Frost/Nixon" and TV shows such as "The Tudors" and "Smallville."

#### Worst foreclosure rates found in 4 states

WASHINGTON (AP)—The 26 U.S. cities with the worst foreclosure problems are concentrated in four states—California, Florida, Arizona and Nevada, a report

released Wednesday shows. The report on foreclosures for the first quarter by RealtyTrac Inc. said the highest foreclosure rates were found in Las Vegas, Merced, Calif. and the Cape Coral-Fort Myers area in Florida. Next on the list were the California metro areas of Stockton, Riverside, Modesto, Bakersfield and Vallejo-Fairfield. Rounding out the top 10 were Phoenix and Port St. Lucie, Fla. Outside of the four high-foreclosure states, the worst foreclosure rates were in Boise City, Idaho (No. 27) and Greeley, Colo. (No. 29). The number of American households threatened with los-

ing their homes grew 24 percent in the first three months of this year and is poised to rise further as major lenders restart foreclosures after a temporary break.

#### Chrysler lenders offer to swap \$2.5B for equity

DETROIT (AP)—Banks and hedge funds that hold \$6.9 billion in Chrysler LLC debt have proposed forgiving \$2.5 billion of it in exchange for about a 40 percent stake in a Chrysler-Fiat alliance, according to two people briefed on the proposal. One of the people said the lenders delivered their counterproposal

to Chrysler and the U.S. Treasury Department late Monday night. Neither person wanted to be identified because the negotiations are private. The lenders also want Fiat to invest \$1 billion cash in Chrysler, and they want to appoint one person to the company's board, according to term sheets obtained by The Associated Press. The counteroffer comes as Chrysler races to meet a government-imposed April 30 deadline to swap debt for equity, cut labor costs and negotiate an alliance with Italy's Fiat Group SpA. If it misses the deadline, government aid will end and Chrysler likely faces liquidation.

### STOCK Portfolio

#### ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 3,627.20 Down 5.90 (-0.16%)	HONG KONG 15,139.89 Down 146.00 (-0.96%)	JAKARTA 1,633.53 Up 4.68 (+0.29%)
TOKYO 8,727.30 Up 15.97 (+0.18%)	K. LUMPUR 971.19 Up 4.59 (+0.47%)	MANILA 2,073.31 Up 23.91 (+1.17%)
SINGAPORE 1,851.63 Down 35.62 (-1.89%)	SEOUL 1,356.02 Up 19.21 (+1.44%)	BANGKOK 463.71 Down 2.67 (-0.57%)

#### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
7,969.56  
+1.63

**S&P**  
850.08  
+17.69

**NASDAQ**  
1,643.85  
+35.64

#### MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.4190
British Pound	0.6828
Canadian Dollar	1.2372
Chinese Yuan	6.8342
Euro	0.7732
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7502
Indian Rupee	49.5150
Indonesian Rupiah	10,857.5000
Japanese Yen	98.1900
Malaysian Ringgit	3.6385
New Zealand Dollar	1.7952
Philippine Peso	48.5850
Singapore Dollar	1.5072
South Korean Won	1,342.4000
Swiss Franc	1.1689
Taiwan Dollar	33.8375
Thailand Baht	35.5850

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press



# Nation

## Obama urges citizens to undertake national service

WASHINGTON (AP)—Calling on Americans to volunteer, President Barack Obama signed a \$5.7 billion national service bill Tuesday that triples the size of the AmeriCorps service program over the next eight years and expands ways for students to earn money for college. “What this legislation does, then, is to help harness this patriotism and connect deeds to needs,” said Obama, a former community organizer in Chicago.

“It creates opportunities to serve for students, seniors and everyone in between,” he said. “And it is just the beginning of a sustained, collaborative and focused effort to involve our greatest resource—our citizens—in the work of remaking this nation.”

Joining Obama was Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who has been battling brain cancer. Kennedy championed the legislation with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and the bill was named in honor of the Massachusetts Democrat.

Kennedy told the audience that included former President Bill Clinton, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former first lady Rosalyn Carter that Obama’s efforts echoed those of his late brother, President John F. Kennedy.

“Today, another young president has challenged another generation to give back to their nation,” Kennedy said, citing his brother’s advocacy for the Peace Corps.

The service law expands ways for students and seniors to earn money for college through their volunteer work.



President Barack Obama uses a shovel as he plants a tree with volunteers at a national service project at Kenilworth Aquatic Garden in Washington, Tuesday, April 21, 2009. AP

It aims to foster and fulfill people’s desire to make a difference, such as by mentoring children, cleaning up parks or buildings and weatherizing homes for the poor.

“I’m asking you to help change history’s course, put your shoulder up against the wheel,” Obama said.

“And if you do, I promise you your life will be richer, our country will be stronger, and someday, years from now, you may remember it as the moment when your own story and the American story converged, when they came together, and we met the challenges of our new century.”

Bolstering voluntary public service programs has been a priority of Obama, who credits his work as a community organizer in his early 20s for giving him direction in life. The president cited his work in Chicago as an example of how one person can make a difference.

## Obama open to torture memos probe, prosecution

WASHINGTON (AP)—Widening an explosive debate on torture, President Barack Obama on Tuesday opened the possibility of prosecution for Bush-era lawyers who authorized brutal interrogation of terror suspects and suggested Congress might order a full investigation.

Less than a week after declaring it was time for the nation to move on rather than “laying blame for the past,” Obama found himself describing what might be done next to investigate what he called the loss of “our moral bearings.”

His comments all but ensured that the vexing issue of detainee interrogation during the Bush administration will live on well into the new president’s term.

Obama, who severely criticized the harsh techniques during the campaign, is feeling pressure from his party’s liberal wing to come down hard on the subject. At the same time, Republicans including former Vice President Dick Cheney are insisting the methods helped protect the nation and are assailing Obama for revealing Justice Department memos detailing them.

Answering a reporter’s question Tuesday, Obama said it would be up to his attorney general to determine whether “those who formulated those legal decisions” behind the interrogation methods should be prosecuted. The methods, described in Bush-era memos Obama

released last Thursday, included such grim and demeaning tactics as slamming detainees against walls and subjecting them to simulated drowning.

He said anew that CIA operatives who did the interrogating should not be charged with crimes because they thought they were following the law.

“I think there are a host of very complicated issues involved here,” the president said. “As a general deal, I think that we should be looking forward and not backwards. I do worry about this getting so politicized that we cannot function effectively, and it hampers our ability to carry out national security operations.”

### Senator McConnell blasts plan to close Guantanamo

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—President Barack Obama came under fire Tuesday for including \$80 million to close Guantanamo in a massive funding request to fight America’s wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The \$83.4 billion request to Congress was submitted on April 9, when lawmakers were on break over the Easter holidays.

Tucked into the 99-page bill were a few paragraphs about Guantanamo—including a request for funds for foreign countries that accept prisoners. U.S. efforts to have other countries take in detainees have largely been a flop—stoking fears the men will end up in America.

“The administration needs to tell the American people what it plans to do with these men if they close Guantanamo,” U.S. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said on the Senate floor Tuesday. He pointed out that two years ago the Senate voted 94-3 against sending detainees to the U.S.

McConnell opposes closing Guantanamo.

“Foreign countries have thus far been unwilling to take them in any significant numbers. And even if countries were willing to take them, there’s an increasing probability that some of these murderers would return to the battlefield,” he said.

## Police say mom ordered daughters out, drove off

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—Usually, it’s an empty threat: “If you kids don’t stop fighting, I’m going to stop this car right now and leave you here!” But a mother from an upper-crust New York suburb went through with it, ordering her battling 10- and 12-year-old daughters out of her car in White Plains’ business district and driving off, police said Tuesday.

Madlyn Primoff, 45, a partner in a Manhattan law firm, pleaded not guilty Monday to a charge of endangering a child. A temporary order of protection was issued, barring her from contact with the children, who were physically unharmed.

Primoff’s lawyer, Vincent Briccetti, would not comment Tuesday on details of the case. But he said, “Madlyn is a great mother connected with a great family, and she is grateful for the outpouring of support from friends and family.”



This April 20, 2009 photo provided by the White Plains Police Department shows Madlyn Primoff of Scarsdale, N.Y. AP

There wasn’t much support from strangers, however. Mothers in-

terviewed near the scene said they couldn’t imagine doing what Primoff did, though some understood the urge.

Iris Gorodess, 49, of Mahopac, who has four children ranging from 10 to 19 years old, said she sympathized with Primoff’s actions, right up to the point where she pulled away.

“I used to pull over and make the kids change seats. Also, I make sure the kids have their iPods and their games. And I have a minivan, so they’re not up my neck all the time.

“But I can’t see pulling away. That has to be too scary for the children.”

White Plains police said Primoff ordered the arguing girls out of the car Sunday evening as they were driving home. She left them at Post Road and South Broadway, an area of shops and offices 3 miles from their home, then drove off, the police report said.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Piracy charge with mandatory life penalty looms

NEW YORK (AP)—The sole surviving pirate from an attack on an American cargo ship off the Somali coast will be tried as an adult after he was portrayed Tuesday as the brazen ringleader of a band of pirates who shot at the ship’s captain and bragged about prior acts of piracy. The bravado authorities say 18-year-old Abdiwali Abdiqadir Muse displayed as the first pirate to board the Maersk Alabama on April 8 had evaporated by the time he entered a federal courtroom to face a piracy charge that carries a mandatory life prison sentence. At one point, Muse sobbed as his lawyers notified the court that they had spoken to his family in Somalia. He lost his first court battle when his court-appointed public defenders failed to convince a judge that he was 15 and could be processed through the courts in secrecy as a juvenile. U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew J. Peck cited conflicting testimony that Muse’s father gave about his children’s ages during telephone testimony from Somalia and his own failure to testify about his age as reasons to find he could be treated by the courts as an adult.

#### Police: Med student targeted women on Craigslist

BOSTON (AP)—Philip Markoff seemed to have a good life: The handsome, clean-cut, 23-year-old medical student was planning a lavish beachfront wedding this summer to a beautiful woman. But authorities say his computer and surveillance video paint a picture of a suspected serial criminal who targeted women offering erotic services through Craigslist. Now he’s accused of killing one and suspected of robbing and tying up another. And police have said there could be more victims. “This was a brutal, vicious crime—savage, and it shows Philip Markoff is a man who is willing to take advantage of women, to hurt them, to beat them, to rob them,” District Attorney Daniel Conley said Tuesday. “He probably thought he was going to get away with it. He thought he was too smart for us.” Authorities refused to comment on reports that Markoff might have been seeking money to pay gambling debts, but a Connecticut casino confirmed it was cooperating in the investigation.

#### Some cities make gains in curbing dropouts

WASHINGTON (AP)—The high school dropout problem is getting better in some big cities where it’s most severe, a national study found. The situation remains dismal: More than one in four kids drops out of high school in the United States. Still, Philadelphia, Tucson, Ariz., and Kansas City, Mo., made huge gains over the past decade, boosting graduation rates by 20 percentage points or more, the study found. In all, 13 cities saw double-digit improvement in their graduation rates, according to the study released Wednesday by America’s Promise Alliance. “I was surprised at the size of the gains in some of these cities,” said Christopher Swanson, director of the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center, which prepared the report. “The majority of these large cities are making improvements, and that’s something you wouldn’t necessarily get if you’ve been listening to this debate recently,” Swanson said.



# Asia

## NKorea accuses South of border tampering

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea accused South Korea of tampering with a border marker and threatened to retaliate Wednesday, a day after their first official talks in more than a year ended without progress.

The North claimed that the South Korean military had moved a marker on their heavily armed border dozens of yards (meters) to the north, calling the move a “serious military provocation” and a “vicious criminal act.”

It warned it would “take a measure for self-defense and the South Korean warmongers will be held entirely accountable for all the ensuing consequences”

unless the marker is returned to its original place, the North’s official Korean Central News Agency said.

South Korea’s military rejected the accusations as “groundless” and urged the North to stop raising tensions.

The allegations came a day after the two Koreas held their first government-to-government talks since conservative South Korean President Lee Myung-bak took office in February last year with a pledge to get tough with North Korea and its nuclear ambitions.

The brief talks, which followed a full day of procedural

haggling, ended without progress. The North rejected the South’s request for the release of a South Korean worker who has been held for weeks at a joint industrial complex in its border city of Kaesong. North Korea says the worker denounced its political system.

Tensions have been running high on the divided peninsula since North Korea’s April 5 rocket launch, which was criticized by the U.N. Security Council. In response, North Korea angrily quit nuclear disarmament talks, expelled international monitors and vowed to restart its nuclear facilities.

## US: Chinese aircraft carrier may worry neighbors

QINGDAO, China (AP)—A future Chinese aircraft carrier may worry neighboring navies because Beijing has not specified what role the warship would play in the region, the U.S. chief of Naval Operations said Tuesday.

China, meanwhile, said a more powerful navy would not pose a threat as it mulls adding its first aircraft carrier to an increasingly sophisticated fleet.

The comments by Adm. Gary Roughead came amid growing signs that China plans to build a carrier as the country puts on a major display of naval weaponry this week in the northern port of Qingdao. The show was part of celebrations for the Chinese

navy’s 60th anniversary.

Long a goal of Chinese military planners, a carrier would bring much desired prestige to China’s navy and could embolden it in asserting Chinese territorial claims, particularly in the South China Sea, analysts say. A carrier would also better allow Beijing to defend sea lanes crucial for the safe passage of trade and natural resources.

“If it is not clear what the intent is of the use of an aircraft carrier, I would say that it may cause concern with some of the regional navies and nations,” Roughead told reporters in Qingdao where he held talks with his Chinese counterpart, Adm. Wu Shengli.

Wu did not comment on a possible Chinese carrier.

In earlier comments to The Associated Press, defense analyst John Pike of GlobalSecurity.org said an aircraft carrier could bring China into conflict at sea with other regional military powers, including the U.S., Japan, South Korea and India.

“The main barrier (to operating a carrier) is deciding what role such ships would play in China’s maritime strategy,” Pike said.

Vice Adm. Ding Yiping, the Chinese navy’s deputy commander, reiterated China’s contention that the People’s Liberation Army does not pose a threat to other nations.

## Sri Lanka army: 35 rebels killed as civilians flee

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan soldiers have pushed deep into the sole remaining Tamil rebel enclave and killed 35 guerrillas while nearly 78,000 civilians have fled the northern war zone in the past two days, the military said Wednesday.

Troops in recent months have ousted the rebels from all their former strongholds and hemmed them into what the government previously deemed a “no fire” zone to protect civilians. But troops entered the 7.7-square-mile (20-square-kilometer) zone this week to fight remaining rebels and free civilians trapped there.

The military said it broke through a key rebel bunker in the coastal strip on Monday and that tens of thousands of civilians have been fleeing the area since then. As of Tuesday evening, 77,793 civilians had escaped, the military said.

Troops advanced deep into the zone and captured a part of during fighting with insurgents on Monday and Tuesday, killing at least 35 rebels, said Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara, the military spokesman. He did not reveal the extent of the area seized by the troops.

He said government forces also suffered casualties, but did

not provide details.

It was impossible to get independent accounts from the war zone because journalists are barred from going there.

The United Nations, many countries and rights groups have expressed grave concerns for remaining trapped civilians, fearing the government may launch an all-out assault soon, after giving the rebels a 24-hour ultimatum to surrender. The deadline expired Tuesday with no response from the rebels.

The Red Cross said civilians could face a “catastrophic” situation under such a military assault.

# World

## Fidel: Obama ‘misinterpreted’ Raul’s words



AP  
Cuba’s President Raul Castro gestures during the closure ceremony of the Bolivarian Alternative trade pact, ALBA, summit in Cumana, Venezuela, Friday, April 17, 2009.

HAVANA (AP)—Fidel Castro says President Barack Obama “misinterpreted” his brother

Raul’s remarks regarding the United States and bristled at the suggestion that Cuba should free

political prisoners or cut taxes on remittances from abroad as a goodwill gesture to the U.S.

Raul Castro touched off a whirlwind of speculation last week that the U.S. and Cuba could be headed toward a thaw in nearly a half-century of chilly relations. The speculation began when the Cuban president said leaders would be willing to sit down with their U.S. counterparts and discuss “everything,” including human rights, freedom of the press and expression, and political prisoners on the island.

Obama responded at the Summit of the Americas by saying Washington seeks a new beginning with Cuba, but he also said Sunday that Cuba should release some political prisoners and reduce official taxes on remittances sent to the island from the U.S.

That appeared to enrage Fidel Castro, 82, who wrote in an essay posted on a government Web site that Obama “without a doubt misinterpreted Raul’s declarations.”

## Iran sends mixed signals to US by jailing reporter

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The Obama administration is reaching out to Iran. In return, Iran is—well, it’s complicated. The Islamic republic sentenced an American journalist to eight years in prison and launched a fervent new campaign to brand U.S. ally Israel as racist. And in the middle of all that, it said it was ready for a new beginning in relations with the U.S. after three decades of diplomatic stalemate.

The mixed messages and

flip-flopping are evidence of a tug-of-war within Iran’s ruling class between those who want to move closer to Washington and those resisting the change, all tremendously complicated by June 12 presidential elections. Both domestic and international considerations play strong roles.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who is running for another term, is a deeply polarizing figure who has called for Israel to be wiped off the

map, denied the Holocaust and insists Iran will never give up uranium enrichment.

On Monday at a U.N. anti-racism conference, he called Israel “most cruel and repressive racist regime,” prompting diplomats from every European Union country to walk out, drawing condemnation from Israel—and earning him a hero’s welcome at Tehran’s airport Tuesday, with hundreds of well-wishers offering bouquets of flowers.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### 9 men caught in UK terror raids up for deportation

LONDON (AP)—British authorities are seeking to deport nine terrorism suspects arrested earlier this month in a highly publicized police operation, officials said Tuesday. The men were among 12 people arrested as part of an anti-terror sweep across northern England on April 8. While British officials haven’t provided any details about what the men were suspected of doing, Prime Minister Gordon Brown said authorities were on to “a very big terrorist plot.” But officials have yet to bring charges against any of the men, most of whom are Pakistanis visiting the country on student visas. The raids were hastily moved forward after a senior police officer inadvertently revealed the operation to the media.

#### Zuma poised to become next South African president

KWANXAMALALA, South Africa (AP)—One-time goat herder Jacob Zuma is poised to lead Africa’s strongest economic power after elections Wednesday—a victor of the fight against white rule, an unabashed polygamist, and a survivor of sex and corruption scandals that threatened his political career. South African voters are projected to give an overwhelming majority to the long-governing African National Congress party and hand the presidency to the ANC’s leader, Zuma. The 67-year-old head of the former liberation movement’s feared intelligence unit is beloved by

the poor, who feel his deprived childhood gives him insight into their painful poverty. His opponents warn that his populism is dangerous for democracy. Zuma says decisions will be made by the collective leadership, indicating there won’t be major changes in government policies that are generally friendly to the West and capitalism.

#### Young Jews march in memory of Holocaust victims

OSWIECIM, Poland (AP)—Thousands of young Jews and elderly Holocaust survivors marched Tuesday at the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz to honor those who perished in the Holocaust, while an Israeli official condemned the Iranian president’s recent anti-Israel comments. A shofar, or ram’s horn, sounded the march’s start. Around 7,000 people from more than 40 countries, many carrying the blue-and-white flag of Israel, then streamed through the infamous wrought-iron gate—crowned with the words “Arbeit Macht Frei,” or “Work Sets You Free”—at the former Auschwitz camp. Under a clear blue sky, the participants trekked 2 miles (3 kilometers) to the sprawling Nazi sister camp of Birkenau, home to wooden barracks and the gas chambers. The annual March of the Living, which honors the memory of some six million Jews who died in the Holocaust, appeared this year as a counterpoint to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s speech Monday at a U.N. racism conference in Geneva.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Lawmaker: Pakistani Taliban spread from Swat

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Taliban militants are setting up checkpoints in a district next to Pakistan’s Swat Valley, a lawmaker said Wednesday, spurring fears that a government-backed peace deal imposing Islamic law in the area has emboldened the insurgents to expand their reign. Reports that the top government official in another adjacent district was kidnapped by militants added to the growing concern. Pakistan’s president signed off on the peace pact last week in hopes of calming Swat, where some two years worth of clashes between the Taliban and security forces have killed hundreds and displaced up to a third of the one-time tourist haven’s 1.5 million residents. The agreement covers roughly one-third of Pakistan’s northwest frontier province, a strategic stretch that runs along the Afghan border and bumps into the tribal areas were al-Qaida and the Taliban have strongholds.

#### Dalai Lama: China riot ruling political

NARITA, Japan (AP)—The Dalai Lama on Wednesday criticized lengthy prison terms given a day earlier by China to three people for arson attacks during rioting last year in the Tibetan capital, calling the rulings politically motivated. The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader said the court decision reflected the Chinese Communist Party’s control of people “without the rule of law.” “Actually, everything is controlled by the party. So, all these sentences were politically reasoned,” he said during a brief stop at Tokyo’s Narita airport on his way to Los Angeles. “We have great reservation about these sentences.” The court gave one defendant the death penalty with a two-year reprieve for helping to lead attacks on two clothing stores that killed six people, China’s official Xinhua News Agency said. Such sentences are usually commuted to life in prison. Another was sentenced to life in prison and a third was given 10 years.



# Environment

## Building strong citizens for a strong country



The temporary greenhouse used for SVES Young Farmers Club activities.

By SALOFI WELCH  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Young Farmers Club is a lot of work. We planted many flowers and many papayas. We even have our own green house. Some of the papayas are not growing. Maybe we are not watering the plants that much. That's the reason why we are going to have automatic sprinklers. When I planted my flowers, there weren't a lot of flowers growing. When I was done planting the flowers seeds I watered them, which made the flowers seeds go all over the place. When you plant seeds, don't spray it with water so fast because the seeds might come out. You should water the soil before you plant any seeds. But you shouldn't water it to much because the plant might drown. We also planted vegetables like

onions, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

### Comments by Valrick Welch

This past week the *Saipan Tribune* published an article by Rick Villages about heroes, in particular the Navy Seals, and a letter was published by Agnes McPhetres about members of an organization making the organization strong in the same way individual fibers of a rope make the rope strong. The self-reliance goals of the Aquaculture Science & Self-reliance project are based on Ms. McPhetres' theory that strong treads make for a strong rope, or that strong self-reliant families make a village strong, and strong villages make strong states and countries.

The students in the SVES Young Farmers Club enjoy working hard as they learn skills that can

make them more self-reliant. The students learning these skills are the future Navy Seals who will learn the skills to survive in any climate, or the teacher who will open a school on one of the Northern Islands, or the future politician who will rely on their character and will stand against the temptation to go against their personal values. Navy war ships appear to be single ships; however, they are made up of compartments that can be sealed and operate independently from each other. A community made of self-reliant individuals will better survive difficult times in the same way a war ship can continue to fight after taking major hits.

Many of the pirates in the Gulf of Aden are former fishermen, who find it easier to steal from others than to earn a living by fishing. However, there

are programs being developed and implemented that have the potential to be more deadly to the pirate business than all of the U.S. and NATO warships. These programs include teaching villages self-reliance through developing their own water supplies, and building tilapia farms. The tilapia provide protein and the fish waste is used for fertilizer to grow plants. Independent, self-reliant villages do not need ships to bring emergency food relief, or aid trucks that must pay a tax to bandits, and most importantly the self-reliant villages are teaching their children to enjoy being self-reliant through hard work.

*Salofi Welch is a student at the San Vicente Elementary School and is a member of the Young Farmers Club.*



Picture shows the San Vicente rain catchment tank for supplying water to the greenhouse.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Book publishers embrace a vision for a green future

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The publishing industry has been fitted for 20-20-20 vision.

The Book Industry Environmental Council, a coalition of publishers, booksellers, librarians, printers and paper manufacturers, announced Thursday a goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent in the year 2020 (based on 2006 numbers), the equivalent, the council says, of pulling 450,000 cars off the road.

The council, which says it represents more than 60 percent of the book market, intends to shrink emissions by 80 percent in 2050. While individual publishers have set environmental goals, the council's announcement marks a broader industry commitment.

"I'm very pleased that our industry has set aggressive but achievable goals that will have tangible benefits and will surely set a precedent for other industries," Pete Datos, chair of the council's climate subcommittee and vice president for inventory and procurement at the Hachette Book Group USA, said in a statement.

No specific plans have been

established, but the council cited some possible roads to reductions: increased use of recycled fiber, greater energy efficiency in office buildings, fewer destroyed books that end up in landfills and using market research and digital technology to reduce the number of unsold books returned to publishers (long a desired, but elusive goal for the industry).

"The tools at our disposal have dramatically improved—providing better insight to improve our forecasts, reducing lead times to get books printed and distributed faster, and increasing our flexibility to print just the "right" quantities," Datos said.

The council has yet to take a stand on e-books, saying that the benefits of saving paper may be offset by the possible toxic effects of electronic devices.

The council was formed last year and its coordinators include the Green Press Initiative, an environmental organization that works with book and newspaper publishers, and the Book Industry Study Group, a publishing industry trade association.

## One community's vehicle for change: Adult tricycles

By JERRY MARKON  
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

**WASHINGTON**—The newest way for Arlington County, Va., employees to get around has three wheels, a bell and an orange safety flag.

It's a tricycle.

No, Big Wheels and scooters are not coming next. These are adult trikes, and you might see county employees riding them to meetings. You might also see drivers stopping to stare.

Arlington officials think the "trike pool" is the way to go.

"I know it sounds nutty," said Mary Curtius, a county spokeswoman, but it's part of the eco-friendly county's efforts to lower health-care costs and help the environment. "Instead of jumping in a car and driving across town, people can bike. We're looking for every way we can think of to work on prevention and wellness."

Michael Dako rode a three-wheeler around on his lunch hour Friday—blue with a big basket, reflectors and a "1 Less Car" tag. "Once you get the feel of it, it's a great ride," said Dako, 42—despite the drivers pulling over to say "cool bike."

"Everyone can see what we're trying to promote, which is cleaner air and health," he said before taking off on a four-mile ride along bike lanes and sidewalks.

Local governments nationwide are doing more to help the environment, but treks by trike are a new one, said Kelly Zonderwyk, a project manager at the Washington-based National Association of Counties. "I can imagine many of the Arlington elected officials and staff riding



Lourdes Sanchez is one of many Arlington County, Va., employees jumping on the county's new fleet of tricycles and bicycles.

THE WASHINGTON POST

around on them," she said.

Arlington staff employees hit upon the idea as part of their two-year-old program, Fresh AIRE (Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions), which already includes hybrid taxis. First they wanted to add bikes to the carpool fleet, said Shannon Whalen-McDaniel, spokeswoman for the county's Department of Environmental Services. They began an "investigative process," checking out hundreds of bikes.

Ultimately, the county purchased six trikes for just under \$500 each, along with

six bicycles. Since the bikes were rolled out last fall, 140 of the county's 3,600 employees have registered to ride.

Wearing a regulation blue helmet with chin strap, Penny Newquist was taking a trike to her meeting. "People will pull you over sometimes and say, 'Where can I get one?'" said Newquist, who works for Environmental Services.

Newquist, 53, said riding a tricycle takes practice—employees aren't kids anymore, after all—and is a bit slow.

It's not like riding a bicycle.



## Life & Style

# Shirley's love Kids!

The students of Ladera International School of Saipan first visited the kitchen of Shirley's Coffee Shop in 2007. Two years after, a new batch of 25 students were in for another memorable trip to the Susupe branch of the restaurant. The K4 to first grade classes were accompanied by teachers Genevie Angeles and Christina Sakaziro during the visit on March 30, 2009.

The kids were amazed to be inside the kitchen of one of their favorite restaurants. They saw Shirley's Susupe chef Roding making pancakes and marveled at the "giant freezer" and the "giant washing machine," as the kids called the Hobart dishwashing machine. To top it all off, the kids watched a demonstration on the making of a much-loved dessert, the "halo-halo." Asked what the dessert was called again, one of the students yelled out, "Fruit shake."

"It was such a fun and spontaneous moment, something that the Shirley's Coffee shop team truly treasures," said Shirley's general manager Susan Macario.

After a tour of the kitchen and dining areas, the kids were given a free treat by

the management. What better way to end the tour than by indulging in the Shirley's Kiddie Meal, a plate of kiddie nuggets, fries and a refreshing glass of fruit punch? The kids enjoyed the treat while watching their book project, *Charlotte's Web*, on a 50-inch television mounted at the dining area of the coffee shop.

Macario was delighted to welcome once again the students of Ladera and said the doors of Shirley's kitchen will always be open to serve as a venue to enhance the students' eagerness to learn and explore the restaurant's world of operations. (PR)



The K4 to first grade classes of the Ladera International School of Saipan pose with teachers Genevie Angeles and Christina Sakaziro during a visit to the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe on March 30, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The students line up to take a peek inside the giant freezer of the Shirley's restaurant.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The kids enjoy their meal while watching *Charlotte's Web* on a 50-inch television mounted at the dining area of the coffee shop.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The kids enjoy the free snack—a plate of kiddie nuggets, fries and a glass of fruit punch—provided by the Shirley's management.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Shirley's general manager Susan Macario and staff Jerhwin Angeles tour the LISS students inside the kitchen of Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Coffee Shop staff Jerhwin Angeles shows the students around the cavernous kitchen of the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

# HOWARD IGLECIAS MACARANAS

September 26, 1955 - April 16, 2009

*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:*

**Common-law-wife :** SUSAN PAGUIO ESCUETA

**Children & Spouses :**

JEFFREY & KEILANI S. REYES (Keith Simmons, Jasmine Reyes, Kaine Reyes, Keanue Reyes, Jade Reyes, Jordan Reyes, Kevai Reyes, Journey Reyes, Jayden Reyes, Kayden Reyes.)

CHARLENE M. & CLEMENTE S. SABLÁN (Luis Andrew C. Macaranas & Yolanda S. Cruz, Chantyll Jasmin Q. Sablan & Treat Kaipat, Germaine Margretrose C. Macaranas, Francisco C. Macaranas)

NAEDEEN C. MACARANAS & PEDRO T. SKILANG (Enson Howard C. Macaranas)

SOHN ROKUE C. MACARANAS & OLIVIA T. PELISAMEN (Ed Patrick T. Pelisamen, Tieshon Rokue P. Macaranas, Akiko Lyvonne P. Macaranas)

KEONE HOWARD C. MACARANAS & LEEANDRA A. SABLÁN

STACEY P. ESCUETA

ARIANA P. MACARANAS

AUBREY P. MACARANAS

**Brothers / Sisters & In-laws:**

WILLIAM I. & SUSANA R. MACARANAS

GILBERT I. & ESTELLA SN. MACARANAS

JIMMY I. & ELOIDA D. MACARANAS

DARLENE P. MACARANAS

ANTHONY I. MACARANAS

RAY TUPAS

CLAUDIA I. MACARANAS & GEORGE DELOS REYES

**Brothers / Sister-In-Laws:**

GERILIMINA C. CEPEDA

PEDRO P. & JEANNY C. TOGAWA

DIONICIO C. & TRINIDAD C. REYES

JUAN C. & CORAZON CEPEDA

JAMES & BRIGIDA REYES

LUIS CEPEDA & AMY ROBERTS

GARY MIGUEL C. & MELDY CEPEDA

GEORGE TEREGEYO & FRANCISCA CEPEDA

*In his new life, he now joins his:*

**Wife :** †MARGARITA C. MACARANAS

**Parents :** †ANDRES G. & †PETRA I. MACARANAS

**Parents-In-Law :** †LUIS I & †TRINIDAD C. CEPEDA

**Brother :** †RICHARD I. MACARANAS

**Sister :** †IRENE M. TUPAS

**Brother In-Law :** †SANTIAGO R. CRUZ

**Sister In-Law :** †MARIANA C. CRUZ

*He also survived and greatly missed by his numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.*

*Please Join Us In Prayers*

THE FAMILY

## Thursday, April 23, 2009 : Memorial Services – Saipan

- 7:00am - Holy Rosary – Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel
- 7:30am - Mortal remains will be escorted from Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church
- 8:30am - Public Viewing/Last Respects
- 9:30am - Memorial Mass
- 11:00am - Preparation for transport of remains to Tinian
- 1:30pm - Departure to Tinian
- 1:45pm - Arrival / Holy Rosary at Tinian Health Center
- 7:30pm - Holy Rosary

## Friday, April 24, 2009 : Funeral Services – Tinian

- 7:00am - Gathering at Tinian Health Center
- 7:30am - Funeral cortege proceeds to San Jose Church
- 8:00am - Responso Service
- 8:30am - Holy Rosary
- 9:00am - Public Viewing / Last Respects
- 11:00am - Mass of Christian Burial
- 12:30pm - Interment services – Tinian Public Cemetery





Miss California Carrie Prejean competes during the 2009 Miss USA Pageant Sunday April 19, 2009 at The Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. Miss North Carolina Kristen Dalton was later crowned Miss USA.

# Hilton, Miss California take sides on 'Today'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Miss California says she stands by her anti-gay-marriage comments, even if they may have cost her the Miss USA crown.

Carrie Prejean defended her views Tuesday on NBC's "Today" show, telling host Matt Lauer that she spoke from the heart during Sunday's pageant when she said that "marriage should be between a man and a woman."

The beauty queen's response

to a question from openly gay pageant judge and celebrity blogger Perez Hilton has received more attention than the winner, Miss North Carolina Kristen Dalton. During the pageant, Hilton asked Prejean if every state should follow Vermont in legalizing same sex marriage.

"I think it's great that Americans are able to choose one or the other," Prejean responded. "But in my country, and in my

family, I think that I believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised."

Hilton, who also appeared on the "Today" show Tuesday, said his question was relevant and that Prejean should have "left her politics and her religion out because Miss USA represents all Americans."

Prejean, who was named first

runner-up at the pageant, told Lauer that she knew "at that moment after I'd answered the question, I knew that I was not going to win because of my answer." Still, she stands by her statements.

"I don't take back what I said," she told Lauer, adding that she "had spoken from my heart, from my beliefs and for my God."

"It's not about being politically correct," she said. "For me, it's about being biblically correct."

# Helmsley estate: \$136M to charity, \$1M to dogs

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Real estate baroness Leona Helmsley's estate gave away \$136 million Tuesday to hospitals, foundations and the homeless and left \$1 million to animal charities, prompting one advocate to accuse the estate of failing to honor the hotel tycoon's wishes.

Helmsley's estate announced 53 charitable grants Tuesday, the bulk of which went to New York City hospitals and medical research. The largest grant, \$40 million, went to create a digestive diseases center at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, while \$35 million went to start two research facilities in Helmsley's name at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

The estate for Helmsley—who died in 2007 at age 87—divided \$1 million equally to 10 animal and dog charities, including the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and several groups that train guide dogs for the blind.

Animal rights groups rejoiced last year amid public reports that Helmsley specified in her will that her multibillion-dollar hotel and real estate empire should go entirely to dog-related chari-

ties. The hotel queen's will had named her dog, Trouble, as a beneficiary.

But a surrogate court judge ruled in February that trustees for the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust had sole authority to decide which charities benefit from her estate.

"Throughout their lives, the Helmsleys were committed to helping others through the innovations of medical research of responding to those in need during critical times and in other areas," the trustees said in a statement Tuesday.

"We now have the privilege of continuing their good works by providing support where it will make a difference." Wayne Pacelle, chief executive of the Humane Society of the United States, said Tuesday the amount of donations to animal charities—ranging from the animal cruelty prevention society to groups such as Canine Partners for Life—doesn't reflect Helmsley's wishes.

"Giving less than 1 percent of the allocation to dog-related organizations is a trifling amount

and not consistent with Leona Helmsley's expressed intention," Pacelle said. "We've been in touch with interested parties and hope for a constructive resolution."

The grants include \$25 million to create a Helmsley Center for Electrophysiology—the study of electrical properties of cells



Helmsley

and tissues—at Mount Sinai, and \$10 million for the Helmsley Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center at the same hospital.

The gift "represents a major step forward in our long-standing commitment to ad-

vance human health through research, innovative clinical care and education," said Kenneth L. Davis, president and CEO of Mount Sinai.

Herbert Pardes, president and CEO of New York-Presbyterian, said the three-year grant "will allow us to propel our digestive disease program to a whole new level and to become a national leader in innovation and comprehensive care."

More than \$15 million was donated to health care systems in South Dakota, including ad-

vanced cancer treatment funding at a Mitchell, S.D., hospital and hospital pharmacy funding in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The foundation gave several \$200,000 donations to city homeless and poverty programs such as Citymeals-on-Wheels and Bowery Mission.

Helmsley's fortune, with much of the holdings in real estate, had been estimated at \$5 billion to \$8 billion after her death.

Her estate still is attempting to sell her 23,000-square-foot estate in Greenwich, Conn. The asking price of the 40-acre property, known as Dannelm Hall, recently was slashed to \$75 million, the Greenwich Time reported Tuesday.

The estate was priced at \$125 million when it went on the market in early 2008, and the price was cut to \$95 million last fall. The mansion was built as a wedding gift by a father for his daughter nearly a century ago. It has been home to an industrialist, a shipping magnate, a New York Yankees owner and Helmsley and her late husband, Harry.

The five trustees managing the estate include Helmsley's brother, two of her grandchildren, her lawyer and adviser.

# 'Desperate Housewives' death draws no crowd

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The death of Edie Britt didn't draw much of a crowd to ABC's "Desperate Housewives."

Sunday's episode of the comic soap, where Nicollette Sheridan's memorable character was killed off via electrocution when her car hit a power pole, was seen by 13.9 million people on Sunday, according to Nielsen Media Research.

That's good for a Top 10 showing, but smaller than the 15.2 million original episodes have averaged this season. "Desperate Housewives" has been off the air with original episodes for a month, and ABC says the serial often takes awhile to build up steam when it returns.

ABC has debuted an unusual amount of new programs in recent weeks, almost like a fall season, with similarly mixed results. The new product is partly a reflection of last year's Hollywood writers strike, which

delayed production of many series, and partly a test-drive of new shows that might make the fall schedule.

Of the new shows, the Bob Saget comedy "Surviving Suburbia" seems the best bet to return. It had a bigger audience than anything on ABC except for "Desperate Housewives" and "Dancing With the Stars" last week.

The quirky cop drama "The Unusuals" and the remake "Cupid" had virtually the same sized audience—just over 6 million—but ABC executives are said to be much higher on "The Unusuals."

The drama "Castle" did better, but is on the bubble. ABC has already pulled the comedy "In the Motherhood" off the air and, since its audience was roughly the same last week, "Better Off Ted" may be better off dead.

CBS won the week with an average of 9.9 million viewers (6.3 rating, 11 share).

# Muppet Elmo launches Smithsonian planetarium show

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Elmo the "Elmonaut" donned a space suit Tuesday as the Muppet star of a planetarium show that will take children on an imaginary ride into space. And Big Bird even gets a chance to fly, joining cuddly Elmo and a Chinese Muppet named Hu Hu Zhu on the voyage.

"Hi, Elmo!" a crowd of 4-year-old tots chorused as the Muppet reported for duty at Washington's famed National Air and Space Museum.

The popular "Sesame Street" character introduced a show that helps children ages 4 to 6 learn about astronomy. And children from the U.S. to China are taking part; there's even a Chinese Mandarin version of the show that opened last year at the Beijing Planetarium.

"This is one small step for a monster and one giant leap for monsterkind," Elmo declared, eliciting smiles and stares from the children visiting the museum on Tuesday.

"Elmo the Elmonaut has ex-



Quinn Colvin, 4, left, Owen Meier, 4, and Amani Williams, 4, center, all from Washington's Peabody Early Childhood Center, visit with Elmo, during an announcement about a new planetarium show for four to six year olds at the National Air and Space Museum, in Washington, on Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

perienced the thrill of supersonic speeds, the power of G-force and the nausea of zero gravity," Elmo said through his space helmet, explaining his training

in the "Monster Aeronautics and Space Administration."

Most planetariums probably wouldn't hold a toddler's attention, let alone distract them

from the scary, dark theaters. But creators of the show say everything changes with the magic of Elmo and the other "Sesame Street" sidekicks.

In the show, "One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure," the Muppets take a journey from Sesame Street to China and the moon. They learn how to find the Big Dipper constellation and the North Star. There's also a sing-a-long of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

"There's just not a lot of other programs out there that engage little kids without scaring them half to death in a dark room," said Sesame Workshop President and CEO Gary Knell. "This will give them an introduction and hopefully instill in them at a very young age a love for science."

Wearing a space suit, Elmo popped up at the museum in front of a huge model of the Hubble Space Telescope. He said he was hoping to borrow one of the museum's rockets for a space mission.



# Another celeb blocked from the 'Dancing' ballroom

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Now that his dancing duty is done, Lawrence Taylor is heading back to the golf course.

The 50-year-old former football star smiled as he was eliminated Tuesday from "Dancing With the Stars," saying, "I want all my boys to know back in Miami: I'll be on the practice range at 9; tee-off is 9:30."

Taylor and professional partner Edyta Sliwiska were praised for their performance Monday, but the pair came into Tuesday's results show in last place, with 21 out of 30 points from judges.

Judge Bruno Tonioli described their waltz as "not terrible, but it's not brilliant." Judge Len Goodman said he was "shocked" at how well the former New York Giants linebacker performed.

Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine which couple is eliminated each week.

Taylor, who joked that Mon-



In this image released by ABC, Lawrence Taylor and Edyta Sliwiska perform on the dancing competition series, "Dancing With The Stars," on Monday, April 20, 2009, in Los Angeles.

day's 1960s-themed group dance was less like "Dancing With the Stars" and more like "dancing with the clowns," said appearing on the ABC show was "a great experience."

He thanked the network and the show's staff "for giving me such a lovely party" and said he was "very blessed" to work with Sliwiska.

"She's taught me everything I know about dancing," he said. "I don't know where the hell I'm going to use it."

Tuesday's results show also featured musical performances by Natasha Bedingfield and Celtic Woman, and it introduced a new competition: Six professional dancers vying for a spot on the next season of "Dancing With the Stars."

Six celebrities remain ballroom contenders: Rapper Lil Kim, rodeo champ Ty Murray, Olympic gymnast Shawn Johnson, country singer Chuck Wicks, "Bachelor" star Melissa Rycroft and actor Gilles Marini.

# Duped brides discover they were taken to the cleaners

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** Believe me, I sympathize with "Duped in California" (Feb. 2). After my wedding in 1979 I sent my gown to a recommended dry cleaner and got the precious box back after waiting more than a month. It was sealed, with instructions to keep it sealed to preserve it.

A couple of months later I had a nagging feeling that something might be wrong and decided to look inside. Although I did get my dress back, it was far more soiled than when I took it to the cleaners. There were stains down the front and dirt along the hemline. I don't think the dress was ever cleaned, and even worse, I suspect it was worn by someone else.

My advice to brides: Send your gown to be cleaned, but check it before leaving the dry cleaners.

DUPED IN CHIPPEWA FALLS, WIS.



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR DUPED:** Thank you for your input, which was echoed by many other former brides. Wedding season is coming, and that's why I am urging brides-to-be to take your suggestion to heart. What happened to you appears to be a dirty little secret in the dry-cleaning industry.

To avoid being victimized, ask someone in the salon where your wedding gown is purchased to recommend a preservation specialist in your area. Then contact the Better Business Bureau to ensure that no complaints have been filed. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** After my wedding, my mother had the good sense to suggest we inspect my dress after it was cleaned, but before it was boxed. To our horror, the dress appeared to have been run through a washing machine. Also, there were spots all over the dress. We were informed that the spots were alcohol stains, which wouldn't show up until after the dress was cleaned. But, Abby, no alcohol had been served at my reception.

BRIDE IN CHAPEL HILL, N.C.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** The letter from "Duped in California" wasn't the first time I have heard of a dress going missing after it was supposedly returned from the cleaners. A TV personality was doing her talk show on weddings and presented her dress on the air to her audience only to discover—to her shock and horror—that her veil was the only thing in the box.

Because the dress is returned in a sealed box, most people don't think to check it, and this scam is commonplace and very lucrative for the thieves. Reputable cleaners should request that their customers inspect their gowns before the box is sealed so the disreputable ones can be weeded out from the ones who are honest.

WENDY H., ANTIOCH, TENN.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** "Duped" is not alone. There have been many incidents of empty preservation boxes and stories of stolen or missing gowns, bridal veils and other family treasures.

Your readers can protect themselves by choosing a specialist who processes the gown LOCALLY, and by asking to inspect it personally before it is put into the container—which should be completely acid-free and lined with fabric or acid-free tissue.

For more tips on gown care and information about safe storage, your readers should visit our Web site, [www.Wedding-GownSpecialists.com](http://www.Wedding-GownSpecialists.com).

SALLY LORENSEN CONANT, Ph.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATION OF WEDDING GOWN SPECIALISTS

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Paula Abdul says her contract is up this season

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Paula Abdul said her contract is up this season on "American Idol," and that no one can ever replace her.

In an interview with Cynthia McFadden, airing Thursday on ABC News "Nightline" at 11:35 p.m. EDT, Abdul said that she loves the show, especially this season, which has a fourth judge, Kara DioGuardi.



Abdul said, "I love the show, I do. I love what I do on the show. ... It's taken me a while to get comfortable in my own skin with the show," Abdul said.

Asked by McFadden if she thinks DioGuardi will replace her on the show, Abdul said, "I don't think anyone (can). First of all, Kara says, 'I could never replace you.' And I said whenever there is change it's not about replacing anybody it's about possibly moving on."

Abdul said she has no problem that DioGuardi joined the judges panel, along with herself, Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson, but she wasn't consulted about the decision beforehand. She said she was informed DioGuardi would be a part of the show while heading to the airport last August to judge "Idol" tryouts.

"I thought that respectfully all of us as a group, maybe we could even figure this out together and I was surprised because Simon has always been against the fourth. We've had guest judges come in before and he banned that from happening anymore," she said.

# 'Idol' finalists sing to stay alive on Disco Night

**NEW YORK (AP)**—"American Idol" is boogeying toward another elimination.

Tuesday night's worrisome theme was "disco," and a number of finalists impressed the judges with groovy versions of '70s classics.

"This bunch right here is one of the most talented groups of seven kids we've ever had on the show," declared judge Randy Jackson.

As expected, the seemingly unstoppable force known as Adam Lambert had Simon Cowell and the gang wrapped around his finger. The 27-year-old "Idol" front-runner wowed the panel with his restrained, emotional delivery of the 1977 hit "If I Can't Have You" by Yvonne Elliman.

Paula Abdul—who had a dreamy look on her face—said she felt Lambert's "pain." The

judge called the theater actor fascinating, brilliant and a shoo-in for the finals of the Fox singing contest.

In another bold declaration, she also told Danny Gokey he'd make it to the final stretch. The smokey-voiced singer crooned the 1978 hit "September" by Earth, Wind & Fire, giving off a Michael McDonald-performing-at-a-wedding vibe. Abdul cooed that he has "one of the sexiest voices."

But Cowell didn't share the Gokey love. The hard-to-please judge picked on the singer for lacking star power.

Teen phenom Allison Iraheta and heartthrob Kris Allen nailed their respective renditions of "Hot Stuff" and "She Works Hard for the Money."

Matt Giraud tackled "Stayin' Alive"—an oh-so-appropriate

song choice, given his last-minute save by judges last week. Cowell detected desperation in Giraud's hard-working performance, while the rest of the panel praised his singing chops.

Cowell, as usual, saved his harshest criticism for Lil Rounds. The 24-year-old Memphis mom has spiraled downward on "Idol," transforming from a major frontrunner to an embattled bottom-dweller. Cowell derided Rounds' rousing cover of "I'm Every Woman" as copycat and "a mess."

Going a step further, he predicted "this is gonna be the last time we're ever gonna see you."

Two finalists will get the boot on Wednesday's results show. This time, judges won't be able to save a singer from elimination, since they used up their one-time save option last week.

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Foo Fighters frontman welcomes second daughter

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl and his wife, Jordyn, have welcomed their second daughter. And, Grohl says, she likes to make noise. The 40-year-old rocker says Harper Willow Grohl was born on April 17. She is 7 pounds, 8 ounces, 20 inches long and—Grohl says—"loud as hell." He says Harper Willow is named after his great-uncle Harper Bonebrake. Grohl and his wife also have a 3-year-old daughter, Violet. The couple married in 2003.

### Darfur genocide inspires actress hunger strike

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Mia Farrow plans to begin a hunger strike next week in solidarity with the people of Darfur. The 64-year-old actress and humanitarian says she will begin a "fast

of only water" on Monday "as a personal expression of outrage at a world that is somehow able to stand by and watch innocent men, women and children needlessly die of starvation, thirst and disease." Farrow was moved to begin the hunger strike after the Sudanese government expelled international aid agencies from the country last month. Farrow says she is calling on world leaders to "help build a credible peace process" to end the violence in Darfur. Her protest is part of Genocide Prevention Month, a campaign to stop genocide worldwide.

### Julie Chen of CBS' 'The Early Show' is pregnant

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Julie Chen of CBS' "The Early Show" has announced that she and her husband, Les Moonves, are expecting their first child together. The 38-year-old Chen told viewers Tuesday that her due date is Oct.

4. Chen, who also hosts "Big Brother," says she won't be taking maternity leave from the CBS reality show. Moonves is CEO of CBS. The couple were married in 2004. He has three children from a previous marriage.

### Poet Linda Gregg wins \$50,000 prize

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Poet Linda Gregg has won the third annual Jackson Poetry Prize, a \$50,000 award given to an author who has written at least one book of "recognized literary merit," but has yet to receive wide attention. Gregg, 66, is the author of several books, including "All of It Singing" and "Things and Flesh." The award is sponsored by Poets & Writers, Inc., a nonprofit literary organization that announced the prize Tuesday. Previous winners include Tony Hoagland and Elizabeth Alexander, who read an original work at President Obama's inauguration in January.



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

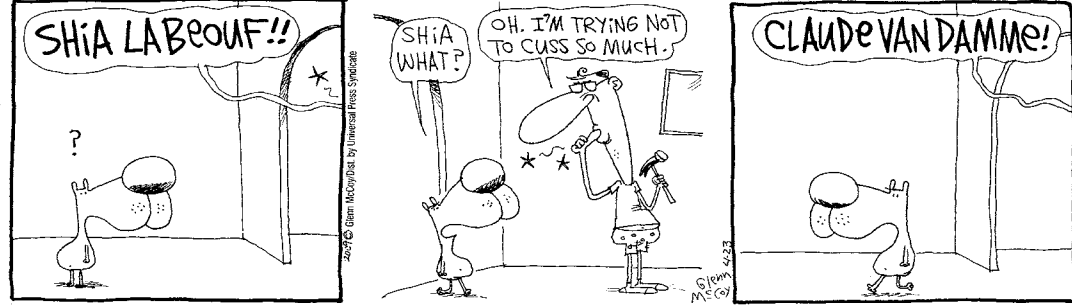


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Mid-May honorees  
5 Ref  
8 Unadulterated  
12 Grand story  
13 D.C. type  
14 Mimicked  
15 Crosby, Stills and —  
16 Ferrigno or Costello  
17 Second-hand  
18 Occurring last month  
20 With tender-ness  
22 Vast expanse  
23 Nipper's co.  
24 Start of something big?  
27 Lisa, to Marge  
32 Tear  
33 Kreskin's claim  
34 Ostrich's kin

**DOWN**

19 Yours truly  
21 Work unit  
24 Sphere  
25 Compete  
26 In the ascen-dant  
28 Enzyme suffix  
29 Riot  
30 Type squares  
31 Same old same-old  
36 Bring about  
37 Caustic solution  
38 Allow to happen  
41 007's doctor foe  
42 Totals, e.g.  
44 Oxen's joiner  
46 Boat's bottom  
47 Packs away  
48 Strata-gem  
51 Ginor-mous

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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K	E	Y	S		A	N	T	A	W	R

Yesterday's answer 4-23

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53					54				55			
56					57				58			

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Melina Kanakaredes, 42; Valerie Bertinelli, 49; Craig Sheffer, 49; Joyce DeWitt, 60

**Happy Birthday:** You will learn plenty from the experiences you encounter this year. A move professionally will also entail geographical relocation or more travel time in order to fulfill your obligations. Your charm and adaptability will result in prosperity. Your numbers are 3, 12, 15, 23, 26, 30, 48

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Refrain from letting your emotions take over, causing you to do something you may live to regret. Patience isn't one of your strong features but it will be a must if you don't want to end up apologizing. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You have to push if you want things to happen. Stubbornness will only hold you back. Make your plans known and strive for perfection so that no one can criticize your choices or the outcome. Work at what finishing what will benefit you. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Broaden your outlook by trying new things and taking part in activities that will introduce you to interesting people. You can live your life waiting for others to catch up to you. A favor will be granted if you ask. \*\*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't put up with coercion. Emotions will be hard to control, especially where work-related problems come into play. If someone hands out false information, be the first to correct the mistake especially if it affects your reputation. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You've got a lot on your mind that has to be dealt with promptly. Take a positive outlook. It's your attitude that will help you win out in the end. Your ability to get things done coupled with a positive approach will win out in the end. \*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Take the edge off things by speaking up about how you feel and what you would like to see happen. You can make a difference. Changes at home will be to your benefit and the work required will be easily accomplished. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** A relationship can be brought to new heights if you are open and honest with one another. You should plan to spend quality time together. Self-improvement projects will raise your self-esteem and confidence. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You may upset your home or personal life if you make drastic changes to the way you do things. A relationship will take a passionate turn if you nurture it properly. Someone you are doing business with will not tell you everything you need to know in order to get the job done. \*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Give-and-take will be necessary, especially when doing things with friends, family or children. Give thought to what you want to learn or where you want to live in order to increase your income. Someone you have known a long time will surprise you. \*\*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Give credit to someone trying to impress you.

EUGENIA LAST  
THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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He or she is asking for your approval, nothing more. A chance to bring everyone you love closer will happen if you plan a gathering at your place. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Remember your past and you will be motivated to move on. It's time to bring on new experiences that will make you feel good about future prospects. Apply yourself and trust in your beliefs. \*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't plan too far ahead. You will end up having to make difficult, last-minute changes. Someone with authority may lead you on a wild goose chase. Make your moves according to what you know will work. This is no time to play guessing games. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You speak from the heart and stand behind your beliefs. You are a strong advocate of justice and fair play and are creative in the way you approach situations you face.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

										1
	2						1	4		6
		7				4				
				6						4
	6		5	1	2				7	
9					3					
			8				5			
8		9	7						6	
4										

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	3	9	1	7	4	6	2
4	1	9	2	5	6	3	8	7
7	6	2	3	4	8	1	9	5
2	4	1	6	8	9	5	7	3
5	3	8	1	7	2	6	4	9
6	9	7	5	3	4	8	2	1
1	2	6	8	9	5	7	3	4
3	8	4	7	2	1	9	5	6
9	7	5	4	6	3	2	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/23

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Solution: 8 letters

E	N	R	O	B	R	I	A	E	T	E	D	R	U	M
E	M	U	E	S	U	M	B	U	A	S	T	S	N	P
N	S	G	S	Y	M	R	A	C	B	A	X	N	I	O
I	N	O	I	T	C	A	T	S	M	B	E	I	F	R
P	L	R	U	A	R	V	T	E	O	A	T	U	O	D
L	T	G	R	T	S	R	A	R	C	T	A	Q	R	K
A	N	O	O	I	A	S	L	H	I	A	C	E	M	C
I	E	L	C	N	C	V	I	P	A	D	U	N	E	A
C	M	E	K	U	I	E	O	G	U	L	D	N	M	B
C	T	S	H	P	V	A	N	T	N	O	E	A	B	P
A	S	C	O	E	M	A	R	T	R	M	R	M	E	R
R	I	O	M	E	D	A	L	T	E	O	E	G	R	O
R	L	E	E	R	O	C	S	I	R	F	N	L	P	
O	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	D	S	E	T	A	T	S
T	E	R	E	D	E	V	L	E	B	A	T	T	L	E

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4/23

Achievement, Action, Airborne, Alpine, Army, Assignment, Backdrop, Battalion, Battle, Belvedere, Camp, Center, Combat, Database, Diorama, Drum, Educate, Enlistment, Fort, Gorgolessco, Group, Hale, Home, Loss, Mannequins, Medal, Member, Mission, Museum, Props, Rank, Rescue, Rock, Score, States, Text, Torrac-cia, Train, Uniform, Unit  
**Yesterday's Answer: Cleanup**

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Saturday Issue:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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**Classified Ads**

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**REFUNDS**

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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# Roy has 42 to even Rockets and Blazers series



**PORTLAND, Ore.** (AP)—Brandon Roy scored 42 points and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Houston Rockets 107-103 on Tuesday night to even their playoff series at one game apiece.

Aaron Brooks led a late charge and finished with 23 points for Houston, which has not made it out of the first round since 1997. Von Wafer came off the bench to add 21.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 27

win hitting two free throws for Portland.

The Rockets took the first game 108-81 by building a big lead and stunning the nervous Trail Blazers from the start. Yao Ming was perfect, making all nine of his shots from the field and all six of his free throws for 24 points, all in the first half.

Blazers center Joel Przybilla changed it up against Yao for Game 2, fronting him rather than playing behind him. And coach Nate McMillan used both Przybilla and Oden—both 7-footers—at the same time,

Wafer's 3-pointer made it 49-45 and gave Houston an opening late in the half.

But Roy hit a layup late to make it 53-51 at the break. He and Aldridge scored the Blazers' final 19 points of the half.

Portland was cold to start the second half and the Rockets went on an 8-1 run to go up 59-54.

The Blazers were helped when Yao collected his fourth foul midway through the third quarter and went to the bench. Roy's 21-foot jumper put Portland ahead 66-63 en route to a seven-point lead.

in Game 1 of the series and had nine rebounds.

## Cavaliers 94, Pistons 82

At Cleveland, the Detroit Pistons couldn't contain LeBron James again. And this time, they didn't stop his teammates until it was too late.

James, showing no regard for a defensive plan Detroit spent three days preparing for him, scored 29 points and Mo Williams added 21 as the Cleveland Cavaliers withstood a stirring comeback for a 94-82 win on Tuesday night to open a 2-0 lead over the Pistons in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Delonte West scored 20 and Zydrunas Ilgauskas 12 for the top-seeded Cavs, who built a 29-point lead in the fourth but lost their edge and let the Pis-

tons get within seven in the closing minutes before finally putting Detroit away.

James added 13 rebounds, six assists and an unforgettable, wind-mill dunk before pulling on his warmups and sitting the first 4:45 of the fourth quarter.

But as Cleveland's star was resting up for Game 3 on Friday night at The Palace in Auburn Hills, Mich., the Pistons, showing more fight than they had in two games, closed within 14 and forced Cavs coach Mike Brown to put James and Cleveland's other starters back in.

Detroit eventually closed within seven on Antonio McDyess' jumper with 3:51 left, but James restored order down the stretch.

Richard Hamilton scored 17 and Rodney Stuckey 14 for the Pistons.

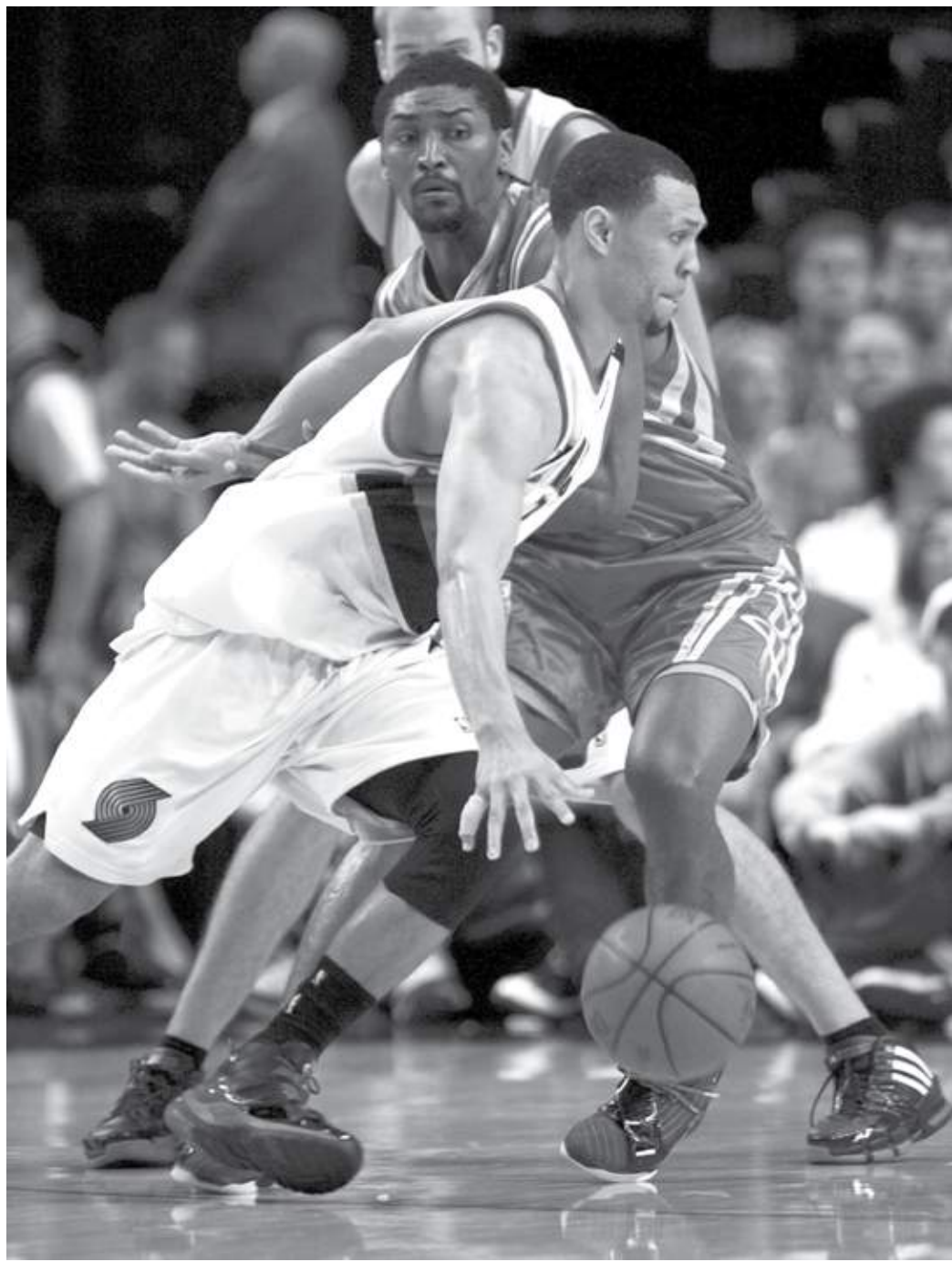
## Lakers 119, Jazz 109

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 26 points, Pau Gasol added 22 and Lamar Odom had 19 off the bench in a victory over the Jazz, giving Los Angeles a 2-0 lead in the best-of-7 first-round Western Conference playoff series.

The Lakers' Phil Jackson notched his 195th career post-season victory, the most of any coach in NBA history.

Deron Williams scored a career playoff-high 35 points and Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz, who head home for Game 3 on Thursday. They again played without injured center Mehmet Okur.

Utah lost its 11th in a row at Staples Center, including playoff games.



Portland Trail Blazers guard Brandon Roy, left, drives past Houston Rockets guard Ron Artest during the second half of a first-round NBA basketball playoff game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

points and 12 rebounds for Trail Blazers, who had never dropped the first two games of a playoff series at home and played one of their most physical games of the season.

Greg Oden's dunk pulled the Blazers into an 89-all tie with 4:45 left, before Steve Blake's finger roll put them ahead.

Portland extended the lead to 96-90 after Travis Outlaw hit a jumper and Roy made a falling-down 3-pointer.

The Rockets closed to 104-100 on Brooks' 3-pointer with 6.3 seconds left. After Roy hit a free throw, Brooks made another 3 to make it 105-103 with 1.5 seconds to go.

Rudy Fernandez sealed the

something he's done just once before.

Yao had 11 points and eight rebounds but got into foul trouble.

Portland had not been to the playoffs since the 2003 season. The team clinched the West's fourth seed and home-court advantage with a win over Denver in the finale.

Fans at the Rose Garden were undeterred by the Game 1 loss. One held a sign reading: "I Still Believe."

Ron Artest gave the Rockets a 24-18 lead with a fadeaway late in the first quarter. But the Blazers rallied to take a 28-26 lead on Roy's 3-pointer.

It was back and forth until

Houston recovered, and Artest's dunk at the end of the third quarter tied it at 72.

The Rockets went up 86-83 midway through the final quarter, but could not put together any sustained runs.

Rockets reserve center Dikembe Mutombo injured his left leg in the first quarter and left the court on a stretcher.

Mutombo appeared to get tangled with Portland center Greg Oden and came down hard. He was prone on the court under the Blazers' basket for several moments before he was taken from the court. A preliminary examination showed a left knee strain, the Rockets said.

Mutombo played 18 minutes

## Magic's Howard wins defensive player of the year

**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—It's a question Dwight Howard will never forget.

Early this season, the Orlando Magic center was talking to Patrick Ewing and Dikembe Mutombo. The once great big men were giving Howard some tips, and Mutombo asked him a simple question.

"He said, 'What do you want to be remembered as, the great dunker who won the slam dunk contest with a Superman outfit on, or do you want to do something better than that?'" Howard recalled Tuesday. "I said, 'I want to be one of the greatest players.' And he said it starts with defense."

Mission accomplished.

The 23-year-old Howard became the youngest player to win the NBA's defensive player of the year award Tuesday. Howard was only the fifth player to lead the league in blocks and rebounds in the same season, a goal he set in training camp.

"A lot of guys don't want to go up (for blocks) because they're afraid of getting dunked on," Howard said. "Dikembe and Patrick told me, 'As many times as you're going to get dunked on you're going to have more blocks.'"

Howard led the Magic to a second straight Southeast Division title and 59 wins in the regular season, one shy of tying the best record in franchise history set in the 1995-96 season. Orlando trails Philadelphia 1-0 in the first round of the playoffs. Game 2 is Wednesday, and Howard said his scratched eyes won't affect his play for the game.

Howard received 542 points, including 105 first-place votes from a panel of 119 writers and broadcasters. Cleveland's LeBron James was second with 148 points and Miami's Dwyane Wade finished third with 90 points.

James' defense has improved immensely since he first broke into the league. This season, his run-down blocks became as

spectacular as his dunks.

"It just means more to me now at this point in my career than it did in the past," said James, the favorite to win MVP honors. "Not saying that I didn't care about defense, it just means more. I care as much about defense as I do offense. It was just about me wanting to be better."

Even Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu, not known for his defense, managed to get one third-place vote.

"Probably the most impressive thing about the defensive player of the year award was two things," Magic general manager Otis Smith said. "The fact that Turkoglu finished in the top 16, and probably the fact that Dwight set out at the start of the season with a goal in mind to be the best defensive player in the league. He started with that goal in mind, and he finished it."

Howard averaged 13.8 rebounds and 2.9 blocks per game this season, his fifth in the league.

The only other players to be rebounding and blocks champions in the regular season were Bill Walton, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Hakeem Olajuwon and Ben Wallace. Blocks were not kept as an official statistic until 1973.

"To be the defensive player of the year at 23 is remarkable," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "To be a great defensive player usually comes later in a career. And he still has so much room for improvement."

The award caps a remarkable year for Howard.

He won gold as the center of the U.S. men's team at the Beijing Olympics, passed Wilt Chamberlain as the youngest NBA player to reach the 5,000-rebound mark and became an All-Star for the third time.

Many saw this coming—just not so soon.

Howard is five months younger than Alvin Robertson, who was 23 years and nine months old when he won the award with San Antonio in the

1985-86 season.

The No. 1 overall draft pick out of high school in 2004, Howard has quickly become one of the NBA's most dominant centers. His chiseled, 6-foot-11, 265-pound physique makes him one of the most intimidating players, and his incredible vertical leap is even rarer for a big man.

Sixers forward Andre Iguodala found that out first hand in Game 1 on Sunday. Howard nearly soared over teammate Courtney Lee to block Iguodala's layup attempt into the stands.

Iguodala said Tuesday that it was one of the most embarrassing plays of the season for him.

"It's like he can guard two guys at once. He can guard his guy and the guy coming off the pick-and-roll, which is almost impossible to do," Iguodala said. "If he gets any more athletic or jumps any higher, they're going to have to change the rules."

Howard followed in the footsteps of one of his idols, Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett, in jumping straight from high school to the pros. He took No. 12 for his jersey, in part, because it was the reverse of Garnett's 21 with the Minnesota Timberwolves and allows him to pay homage to the player he looked up to as a kid. Garnett wears No. 5 with the Celtics because Bill Sharman's 21 is retired.

Now the pair have even more in common. Garnett won the award last season for anchoring a Boston defense that won the NBA title. Howard joked Tuesday that he didn't even know Garnett won the award but was honored to be in the same class as his idol.

Howard also gave credit to his teammates, and in typical fashion, he threw in a one-liner to explain his case.

"I really appreciate those guys for allowing their man to get to the basket to give me the opportunity to get blocks," Howard joked.



# Sizemore, double play balls lead Indians to win



CLEVELAND (AP)—Grady

Sizemore hit a three-run homer and the Cleveland Indians turned double plays in six straight innings in an 8-7 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Tuesday night.

Sizemore connected in Cleveland's four-run fourth inning as the Indians built a 6-1 lead, but it was the six double play balls that saved the day for the Tribe.

Aaron Laffey (1-0) gave up a run in the first—the only run he allowed in seven innings—and was helped by double-play grounders in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh. Coco Crisp bounced into an inning-ending double play in the seventh after the Royals loaded the bases.

## Yankees 5, Athletics 3

At New York, Johnny Damon hit the only home run in the first night game at the new Yankee Stadium and Andy Pettitte pitched New York to the victory.

Brett Gardner came through with a sensational catch and a two-run single for New York.

Damon's sixth-inning shot off Andrew Bailey gave the Yankees a 5-2 lead, and they held on behind Brian Bruney and Mariano Rivera before a crowd of 42,065.

## Rangers 5, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, Nelson Cruz and Ian Kinsler each hit two-run homers and Texas roughed up Roy Halladay again.

The game was delayed for 10 minutes in the top of the sixth when plate umpire Kerwin Danley was hit on the head by a broken bat and had to leave the field on a stretcher.

Halladay (3-1) gave up five runs and eight hits in eight innings. In 20 career games against Texas, Halladay is 7-7 with a 5.36 ERA, his highest against any AL opponent.

## Angels 4, Tigers 3

At Anaheim, Calif., Torii Hunter tied the game with a solo homer and scored the go-ahead run on Gary Matthews Jr.'s two-out



Cleveland Indians' Grady Sizemore hits a three-run home run off Kansas City Royals pitcher Sidney Ponson in the fourth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 21, 2009, in Cleveland.

double in the eighth inning, helping the Angels get the win.

Hunter drew a leadoff walk in the eighth from Brandon Lyon (1-2) and advanced to second on Kendry Morales' flyout. An out later, Matthews, starting in right field for the injured Vladimir Guerrero, lined an 0-1 pitch off the center-field fence and clapped his hands emphatically as he reached second base.

## Mariners 4, Rays 2

At Seattle, Jarrod Washburn tossed seven strong innings to continue his surprising start, and catcher Rob Johnson had a two-run triple for Seattle.

Washburn (3-0) has won his first three decisions for the first

time since he started his career 4-0 in 1998. He gave up two runs in the first, matching his season total for earned runs entering the game, then limited the Rays to just three hits the rest of his outing.

Washburn was 5-14 with a 4.69 ERA with the Mariners last season.

## Orioles 10, White Sox 3

At Baltimore, Brad Bergesen allowed one earned run in his major league debut, Aubrey Huff homered twice and the Orioles ended a five-game losing streak.

Recalled from Triple-A Norfolk before the game, Bergesen gave up three runs and four hits in 5 2-3 innings. The right-

hander struck out five, walked two and hit a batter.

The 23-year-old Bergesen (1-0) outpitched veteran Jose Contreras (0-3), who yielded six runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings. Contreras, 37, has lost each of his three starts this season.

## Cardinals 6, Mets 4

At St. Louis, Rick Ankiel hit a go-ahead RBI double after Daniel Murphy misplayed Brendan Ryan's liner to left field for a triple, and the St. Louis Cardinals rallied from four runs down to beat the New York Mets 6-4 Tuesday night.

Albert Pujols had a two-run double, Ankiel broke out of a 1-for-20 slide with three hits for

the Cardinals. Khalil Greene, Joe Thurston and Ryan Ludwick also had RBIs for St. Louis.

## Pirates 3, Marlins 2

At Pittsburgh, Jeff Karstens pitched six sharp innings, Freddy Sanchez homered and the surging Pirates beat Florida.

Karstens allowed one and three hits for the Pirates, who lead the league in ERA and have won four of their last five games. Sanchez finished with three hits.

Cameron Maybin hit his first homer for Florida, which has lost two straight against the Pirates after opening the season with an 11-1 stretch.

## Nationals 4, Braves 3

At Washington, Adam Dunn homered, Washington's beleaguered relievers tossed three scoreless innings for the second day in a row and the Nationals beat Atlanta for their second consecutive victory.

After opening the season 0-7, then dropping to 1-10, Washington is 3-10. Atlanta has lost five of six games.

Shairon Martis (2-0) went six innings and gave up three runs—two earned.

## Astros 8, Dodgers 5

At Houston, Carlos Lee hit a two-run homer, Russ Ortiz pitched well after a rough first inning and the Astros ended Los Angeles' eight-game winning streak.

Miguel Tejada drove in three runs and Jose Valverde shrugged off a bruised right heel to shut out the Dodgers in the ninth for his first save.

Ortiz (1-0) gave up three runs in the first inning, then stifled the Dodgers for the next four while the Astros took over. Los Angeles came in with the highest batting average in the majors (.302) and an NL-leading 82 runs.

## Cubs 7, Reds 2

At Chicago, Rookie Micah Hoffpauir homered and hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly and Rich Harden pitched six strong innings for the Cubs.

Hoffpauir, playing in place

of the injured Milton Bradley, hit solo homer in the second inning to tie the score at 1, and his sacrifice fly drove in the first run in a three-run fifth that broke a 2-2 tie.

Harden (1-1), coming off of a poor outing in which he struggled with his control, gave up three hits and walked two while striking out eight.

## Phillies 11, Brewers 4

At Philadelphia, Pedro Feliz homered and drove in three runs, Jamie Moyer pitched six-plus effective innings and the Phillies overcame two homers from Ryan Braun.

Braun had a career-high five hits for the Brewers in a rematch of last year's NL first-round play-off series won by the Phillies. Braun finished 5-for-5 with three infield singles and four RBIs.

Moyer (2-1) allowed four runs and seven hits. The 46-year-old left-hander earned his 248th career win, moving into a tie with Amos Rusie for 45th on the career list.

## Rockies 9, Diamondbacks 6

At Phoenix, Todd Helton broke out of a slump with three hits, including his first homer, and drove in three runs for Colorado.

Helton entered the night hitting .231, 97 points below his career average. He singled twice and added a two-run shot off Jon Rauch in the eighth.

Garrett Atkins also had three hits for the Rockies, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

## Giants 8, Padres 3

At San Francisco, Edgar Renteria hit a grand slam off Jake Peavy and matched his career high with five RBIs, leading the Giants.

Peavy (2-2) allowed six runs and seven hits in six innings.

Matt Cain (2-0) beat San Diego for the first time since 2006 and improved to 2-0 for the first time in his career. The right-hander, who didn't get his first win last year until April 23, scattered nine hits over six innings, yielding just two runs.

# Goodell: Vick's ticket back is 'genuine remorse'



LEXINGTON, Va. (AP)—NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says Michael Vick has paid a significant price for doing an "egregious thing" and will have to show genuine remorse and that the experience has changed him in order to get a chance at resuming his career in the league.

Goodell appeared Tuesday night at Washington & Lee University, engaging in a panel discussion about leadership in sports and taking questions from the audience.

Afterward, Goodell said he has not kept up with Vick's legal issues since suspending him from the league after his conviction

in a federal dogfighting case. Vick is serving a 23-month prison term and has a team of lawyers trying to settle his finances in bankruptcy court.

A major component of the bankruptcy lawyers' efforts to find a way for Vick to satisfy his creditors is based on his ability to again earn millions in pro football.

"I don't stay in touch with them," Goodell said after the panel discussion, reiterating that he'll consider Vick's case only after all his legal issues have been resolved.

"At that point in time, I will want to meet with Michael, I will want to meet with his people, I will want to meet with other professionals to understand: does he understand the mistakes

he made and is he genuine and have remorse for those actions and is he prepared to handle himself differently going forward. That will ultimately be my decision," he said.

Many have speculated that Vick would become a lightning rod for animal rights groups and others if he is reinstated and added to a team's roster, but Goodell said he thinks the public will apply the same standard he'll use when determining whether to allow him to return.

"Our issue is trying to do the right thing and represent the NFL in the best possible way," said the commissioner, whose institution and enforcement of a personal conduct policy has

seen him send Vick and numerous other stars to the sidelines for off-the-field trouble.

"Michael did an egregious thing. He has paid a very significant price for that. If he's learned from that and is prepared to live a different life, I think the general public is forgiving on that when people are genuine and they show remorse and are prepared to live a different life," he said. "That's something he has to prove to myself and the general public."

"Hopefully," Goodell said later, "he's learned from that."

Vick, 28 and once the NFL's highest paid player with a seven-year contract for \$130 million, is scheduled to be released from the federal penitentiary

in Leavenworth, Kan., on July 20, but could be transferred to home confinement in Hampton as early as May 21.

Goodell laughed at the suggestion that his no-nonsense approach to discipline has earned him a reputation as the sheriff of the NFL, and said it's his least favorite role. But he said he's also learned that taking the game away from misbehaving players is usually effective.

"Players love to play the game, coaches love to coach the game. You don't want to do that," he said. "Our efforts here are to try to have people avoid making mistakes, not having to discipline them. I'm not trying to reinforce failures; we're trying

ing to create success."

It's frustrating, he told the audience of about 250, when one player's misdeeds draw a lot of attention and leave people feeling the league is filled with out-of-control athletes.

"The thing that I get most frustrated about with our player conduct is that our players are, virtually all of them, are wonderful young men. They do great things in their community and when you have a couple that don't behave responsibly, it reflects poorly on all of them and people make assumptions about them and stereotype them. ... They have to recognize that it's a privilege to play in this league, but that it comes with a responsibility and that responsibility is something to be held accountable for because it reflects on all of us.







# 2009 CNMI Junior Championships

Photos by  
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Carl Dela Cruz, right, and Chris Cajigan exchange high-fives during their title match against Jake and Aaron Lee in the boys' 12-and-under division in the 2009 CNMI Junior Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



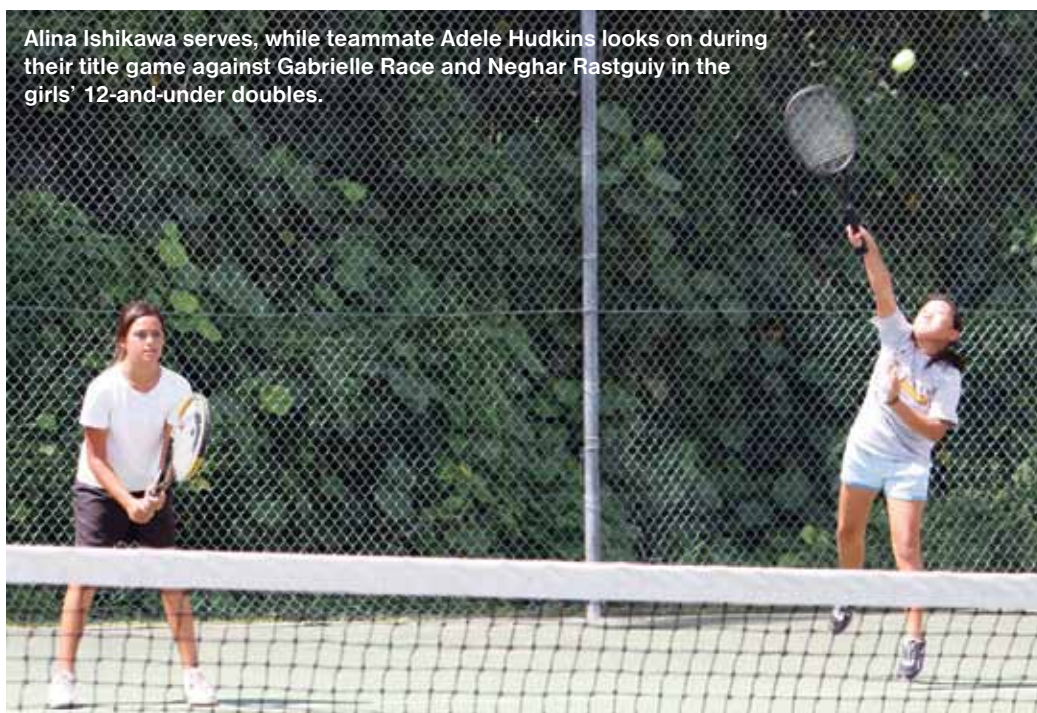
Aaron Lee goes for a forehand return during the boys' 12-and-under finals.



Rafael Jones, who teamed up with Nathan Nutting, serves against Christian Miller and Daniel Camacho in the boys' 18-and-under doubles finals.



Daniel Camacho makes a backhand return near the net.



Alina Ishikawa serves, while teammate Adele Hudkins looks on during their title game against Gabrielle Race and Neghar Rastguiy in the girls' 12-and-under doubles.



Neghar Rastguiy picks up a loose ball during a break in the girls' 12-and-under division game.



Nathan Nutting looks up for his target during the boys' 18-and-under doubles finals.



Above, Gabrielle Race in action in the girls' 12-and-under doubles.

Left, Emily Jones, who paired with Tammy Ackerman, reaches for the ball during a semis match in the girls' 12-and-under division.

Right, Chris Cajigan returns to Aaron and Jake Lee during their title match in the boys' 12-and-under division. Cajigan played with Carl Dela Cruz.







## Yamagishi rules two-day CWGA tourney

Dolores Yamagishi carded the lowest net scores on both days to win the Annual CNMI Women's Golf Association Two-day Tournament held last April 11 and 12 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

26

# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Roy has 42 to even Rockets and Blazers series

Brandon Roy scored 42 points and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Houston Rockets 107-103 on Tuesday night to even their playoff series at one game apiece.



24

28 THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# 5 pairs triumph in IT&E tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament concluded Sunday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with five teams emerging as champions in their respective divisions.

Title matches in two divisions went the distance, while the three others ended after only two sets.

Of the two three-set championship games, the men's B division proved to be the more exciting one with the tandem of Daniel Macario and Jorge Olanda surviving the duo of the then undefeated Mario Diola and Paul Navarro.

Macario and Olanda drew first blood, winning the first set by only two points, 21-19. But they failed to sweep the finals, as Diola and Navarro regained their bearings in the second set and notched a 21-16 victory to force a third set.

Navarro and Diola controlled

See 5 PAIRS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Daniel Macario, left, is congratulated by Alfred Acosta, right, while teammate Jorge Olanda is all smiles after they won in the men's B division finals in the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament Sunday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## Sports groups urged to join Oceania feds

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White has urged

various sports federations in the CNMI to seek membership to the Olympic Sports Federation of Oceania.

White attended the 5th OSFO Assembly held in Queensland, New Zealand early this month and was told by OSFO officials of the group's invitation to CNMI sports associations and others in the region.

OSFO was officially established in Brisbane, Australia in 2005 to promote a cooperative approach to the development of sport in the Oceania region. It exists to represent the interests of members to ONOC, the IOC, governments, and other organizations that may impact on the delivery of services for the member international federations.

White specifically urged badminton, triathlon, and beach volleyball.

See SPORTS on Page 26

# Freedom Air, Jets oust rivals in Budweiser softball league



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

J.J. Laniyo hits an over-the-fence homerun to rightfield in his first swing of the bat in the Jets' 18-3 win over No Zone Tuesday night.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

Freedom Air made it two in a row in the loser's bracket of the 2009 Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-



pitch Softball League playoffs after eliminating Docomo, 15-12, Tuesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Reno Celis went 3-for-4 to

lead Freedom Air to victory.

The veteran clouter doubled in his first at bat and recorded two homeruns in the third and fourth innings. He also had an intentional walk in the sixth to help Freedom Air stall Docomo's comeback attempt late in the match.

Roy Celis added two more homeruns in the third and sixth.

Freedom Air led 10-0 in the top of the fifth, needing only one swing of the bat to take the outright win via mercy run rule.

But after hitting only thrice after four innings, Docomo players started finding their target and came up with three runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Freedom Air made it 12-3 in the top of the sixth, while Docomo exploded anew with six runs in the bottom of the sixth to move within four, 12-8.

Reno Celis, Ton Aguon, and Ken Villagomez scored anew for Freedom Air as they increased their lead to 15-9 after the top of the seventh.

Docomo collared three more runs in the bottom of the frame before Freedom Air took the win on two consecutive flyouts to right and center.

See FREEDOM on Page 26

# Bittersweet XTERRA experience for King

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Tinian had two representatives to the 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship in Joshua Manglona and Janet King. Unfortunately, only Manglona finished the race, as King played Good Samaritan to Quincy Johnson.

Minutes after completing the swim leg, King loaned her bike to Johnson, who had the chain of his bike broken somewhere in Navy Hill.

"It was due to heavy pedaling, as I was going uphill. When I stopped and checked on it, I saw Janet moving closer and then she stopped, too," Johnson said.

"I entered the XTERRA Sport and he was in the XTERRA Championship course, so I

See BITTERSWEET on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Tinian triathletes Joshua Manglona and Janet King and Saipan's Quincy Johnson pose for a group photo during the awards banquet for the 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship Saturday night at Pacific Islands Club.